

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

---

RILA Bulletin

Rhode Island Library Association

---

3-1987

## Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 60, no. 3

RILA

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila\\_bulletin](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin)

---

### Recommended Citation

RILA, "Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 60, no. 3" (1987). *RILA Bulletin*. Book 157.  
[https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila\\_bulletin/157](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/157)[https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila\\_bulletin/157](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/157)

This Book is brought to you by the University of Rhode Island. It has been accepted for inclusion in RILA Bulletin by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons-group@uri.edu](mailto:digitalcommons-group@uri.edu). For permission to reuse copyrighted content, contact the author directly.



# Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin

Volume No. 60 No. 3

ISSN:0146-8685

March 1987

## PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY: FUNDING SPEECH GIVEN AT RILA - November 17, 1987

by **Annalee Bundy**  
**Director, Providence Public Library**

Opened over one hundred and ten years ago by a group of dedicated citizens, Providence Public Library has grown both in size and scope. Originally, those who founded the library pledged their own money to totally support all operations. During subsequent years, the movement for tax support of libraries came to Providence and the city agreed to provide a small sum of money for partial support. From the opening of the library, the incumbent mayor of the city has been a member of the Board of Trustees.

Providence Public Library evolved from an operation in two rooms of the Butler Exchange Building (located on the current site of Fleet Bank) to larger quarters on Snow Street, to the building on Washington Street. This happened in a relatively short time. The Washington Street Building opened in March of 1900. Branches were added shortly after the turn of the century. Even in that short time span, space became a problem; and in 1923, the Trustees commissioned plans to double the size of the building. It was not until after World War II, however, that funds became available to build the addition which has a dramatically different appearance from the older part.

In the 1950's the library evolved into the role of a comprehensive research library. Over the years, more and more in-depth research materials were required to meet the public's

requests. It should be noted that at that time, many of the libraries in academic institutions either did not exist or were far more limited than they are today.

In 1965, as a result of RILA legislation, Providence was designated the Principal Public Library and given the sum of \$100,000. An agreement was made with the newly created Department of State Library Services to provide certain services on a statewide basis. At that time, Providence did charge a nonresident borrower's fee. This fee was dropped upon the designation as Principal Public Library. The primary service supplied was that of allowing all Rhode Island residents to use Providence Public Library (PPL). As time went on,

### WARNING

This is the last issue of the Bulletin that you will receive if you have not paid your 1987 membership dues.

Renewal forms are located in the December 1986 and January/February 1987 issues of the Bulletin. Forms were also mailed to all members in January. If you have any questions concerning membership contact Stuart Schneider at the GSLIS.

more services were requested and PPL obliged but without adequate additional compensation. In looking at the budget figures, which do not include special grants or in-kind contributions, it is obvious that PPL has gone for long stretches of time without any increases from the state. Income from the City of Providence has increased steadily except for one setback early in the eighties. Few of us would work year after year taking on more responsibilities for the same amount of money. Providence Public Library did, but no longer can do so.

If comparisons are made with other public libraries, both within and outside New England, the inadequate funding from the public sector for PPL is quite obvious. For example, Springfield, MA, City Library, with a smaller population and no statewide mission, received \$4.5 million dollars for operating expenses last year. Eighty percent of that budget came from the City of Springfield. Syracuse, NY, Public Library, with a mission to serve both the city and the county population of 352,000, receives \$6.2 million in public funds for operating. Neither of these fine libraries have research missions. Syracuse is also just completing a multi-million dollar building project. Providence, with a current operating budget of \$2.9 million, simply cannot compete, but we try.

What has this done to the library? Ten years ago, the staff numbered 203. In June, 1986 it counted 153. Today it is 136. It is impossible to maintain hours or services with that type of loss. We do budget for positions but cannot compete in hiring staff. In 1965 dollars, our entry level salary would be \$22,500--quite decent--but our funding has not kept up. Our real entry level salary is \$17,100. Thus, we have many vacancies.

How have we managed? Volunteers. We now have over one hundred volunteers doing a great variety of activities. Examples include: making all of our signs, window displays and flyers; mailings; stripping books; checking security at the door; and inputting data. But this program gives us over 8,000 hours of time per year that does not appear in our budget.

Additionally, we have a senior aide program. This is being phased out by the federal government; but we still have twelve people who do many specialized types of work daily. They are paid with federal funds administered through the city.

Many of our costs cannot be controlled. These include utilities and insurance. While oil has gone down, telephone and electricity have gone up. Economies have been affected by manually operated heating systems. Liability insurance has gone from 0 to \$30,000. It was not necessary in the past; but today, we cannot open our doors without it. Other liability insurance to cover staff and Board members has also increased.

In the 1950's - or even 1965 - security was not a problem generally. Today, it is an expensive one. Uniformed guards are necessary. Street people have been a problem since most staff can remember. It is nothing new to public library personnel, but today there are also more mentally disturbed people frequenting the library. The Providence Mental Health Center has been helpful in identifying these people and instructing the staff on how to handle them; unfortunately, they are not familiar with all who come to the library. Dealing with these individuals takes time away from library responsibilities, which becomes costly.

Maintenance on PPL branches was deferred for about twenty years. Eight years ago a program was started to try to prevent more deterioration and to repair some damage. This has been an on-going project and most of the seven branch buildings owned by the library now have been insulated and have had the most glaring damage repaired. One building, Wanskuck, was gutted by fire. Fortunately, the library carries insurance for full replacement value, so that building is being renovated using insurance funds. However, there are additional costs because insurance is only required to replace what was there. The building is over 50 years old, so wiring, doors, staircases and other areas of construction do not meet today's building code. These additional costs have to be taken from the library's budget. The City of Providence did provide the library with funds to operate Wanskuck for a full year; and the library is allowed to use that money to make up the difference between the insurance payment and the cost of code requirements.

An added cost at the central building is a requirement that it must be occupied 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This is a city ordinance based on boiler size. Thus, an employee is always in the building.

You may ask "What have you done to help yourselves?" Each year the value of the

endowment has grown. Members of the Board have done an outstanding job of investing funds; from a figure of \$11.2 million in the late 60's to \$6.3 million in the late 70's, to \$16.3 million last June. Most of this increase can be attributed to excellent management. Of course, the income has increased proportionally, from about \$243,000 to almost one million. Truly wise or prudent management would dictate that only six percent of this income would be spent each year, but PPL cannot afford that. It needs every penny of income to operate, unlike RISD or Brown, for example, who follow the percentage plan and thus their endowments grow faster and income is greater.

Many say, "Why not spend the endowment?" Unfortunately, the library did that in the 70's. That is the explanation of the fluctuation of value and income. Nine years ago, the policy was established that no more dipping into principal would be tolerated. Why? It became apparent to us that the private sector would not support the library since it did not live within its budget. Any banker or business person tends to scorn government because it tends to spend more than it has or takes in. That is poor management. It also penalizes the future. Thus, cuts had to be made to fit the funds available. My charge on taking the directorship of PPL has been to balance the budget.

In addition, in the late 70's PPL began aggressive fund raising. A development office was established and annual fund drives have been conducted ever since. Other funds also come in, bringing the total to over \$500,000 in some years. (Upgrades for the computer system have been paid for out of this money.) The library maintains many book funds which receive contributions sporadically. These funds can only be used for designated purposes. They are set up through trusts and wills. While we prefer unrestricted donations, we do not turn down those that are restricted. PPL cannot say it will never invade principal again. For a capital item, the Board would consider borrowing against the endowment. This is considered acceptable financial practice, but for recurring expenses such as operating, it is not acceptable.

As a service institution, PPL relies on its staff and the tradition has been for that staff to provide quality service. William Foster, PPL's first librarian, established that policy and it has been carried on to this day. But,

the staff has to have tools to provide that service and often they must create their own. Time is required to create the Rhode Island Index, The Women's Index, and The Shakespeare Index, to name a few. This is time away from public service desk responsibilities.

The Board established a policy eight years ago that they would cut hours and staff before cutting acquisitions. Thus, beginning in 1982, the library began cutting hours and staff. Prior to 1979, PPL was closed Saturdays in July and August. Until September 27th, PPL was open all Saturdays except holidays. In 1982, the library began opening at 9:30 instead of 8:30. The library staff used that extra hour to do book selection and various other necessary non-public work. But, this was not enough time to maintain collections or indexes, and do acquisitions. More staff was essential. Staff vacancies went unfilled because of low salaries. Many staff members went to academic, special, and other public libraries because of better working conditions, benefits, professional advancement, and, of course, salaries. I am not upset about this because it is a usual pattern, but I cannot replace these staff members without more funding. Over a year ago, there were simply too few people to do the work, so Wednesday closing at the Central site became a necessity.

In 1981, the mayor gave the library an increase of 15%, but the City Council cut the amount by over \$100,000. This move forced the closing of two branches and hours in remaining branches were cut to 4 days per week. This was not taken lightly, and the hope has always been to restore service. Today, the funds from the city are just over what they were in 1981, and service has been restored, although at a lower level. This is also the first year that the library did not receive CDA (Community Development Administration) funds. For a 12 year period the library received additional federal funding from the city. Sometimes as much as \$117,000 per year. Last year, it all stopped. These funds often supported up to 50% of the cost of five branches. This is not an easy thing to lose, and now branches operate only 3½ days rather than 4 days per week.

Back to acquisitions, I would like to quote Lowell Martin. In an article in Library


"it was book funds and not staff funds that took the brunt of the forced cuts of the 1970's. Libraries that spent 20 to 25 percent of their income on collections a dozen years ago are now spending less than 10% while the personnel line has grown from 65 to 80 percent of the total outlay. The presumption, conscious or not, seems to be that the financial setback is just temporary, and that the full range of staff members should be retained even though they lack materials with which to work. In due time, that thinking goes, budgets will be restored and the library can return to its full panoply of services. There are few signs that this will occur, since it would take profound changes in the prevailing philosophy of government service and in tax structures and levels.

The policy reactions by library administrators have been paradoxical. Lacking funds to serve adequately those who come to it, the public library has been reaching out to attract non-users. Lacking the materials that people seek, it has cut back on the book funds while holding on to staff."

Providence has chosen not to do this. We have tried to maintain materials acquisitions. Later, in the same article, Martin points out that this is probably the better route since people who need these materials in the future have no other place to go. Philadelphia and San Francisco did not do it and are paying now. He also talks about all the "baggage" public libraries have taken on but really cannot support. Something has to go. When funds are not there, decisions have to be made, and every element of the community does not want its favorite feature to go. At the moment, the city provides almost twice as much money as the state. While the total amount of public funding is inadequate, the city will not entertain increases unless the state provides its share. PPL is caught in the middle. Usage by non-Providence residents is high: 60% walk-in and 48% card holders. How can the city be expected to substantially increase funding if the state provides only half of what the city does? Not an easy question to answer. The state, for several years at a time, has level funded PPL, and yet expects the same service. (This is shown on the chart in Appendix I.) How many

libraries could give raises or meet other increased costs without cutting something under these circumstances? I doubt that any could. In fact, PPL staff in the middle 70's went for 18 months without raises. Because of the size of the operation, a certain number of people have to be present to open the doors. Some libraries can do it with two people, however, the Central Library needs eighteen--more than many libraries have on their entire staff. This will diminish with completion of the renovation, but staff will still be needed in the same numbers to maintain quality service levels.

So, where do we go? We'll keep trying to get more funds to do our job. We will look at re-defining our role. For now, we are still a public research library and will continue to back other libraries to the best of our ability. We will continue to explore cost cutting measures. We will attempt to keep everyone informed about our progress in hopes that they will better understand our situation. I realize all public libraries are hurting and we would like to help them. We need a champion who can persuade the public funders to make public libraries a top priority - someone who will work, not just talk. Grassroots efforts are fine but do not necessarily get the needed funds. Many voters thought the library's Question 11 would solve PPL's financial problems. It does not. But it's a start. Studies are great but what will they get us now? How will we get from here to where they might take us? PPL staff members are creative and constantly come up with better ways to do things. I am confident that we will survive our present situation. There is much to look forward to. We will manage to carry out our mission with the same quality service.



*We encourage browsing.*

**Brown Bookstore**  
244 Thayer St.  
Providence, RI  
Mon-Fri 9-6  
Sundays 12-6

<u>YEAR END</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ENDOWMENT</u>	<u>PRINCIPAL</u>	<u>GRANT</u>	<u>TOTAL EXP.</u>	<u>DEFICIT</u>
12/31/65	\$ 373,279	\$ 341,421	\$100,000	\$ 43,575	\$ 987,987	
12/31/66	418,709	364,289	100,000	43,575	1,025,190	
12/31/67	480,000	391,374	151,683	43,575	1,134,545	
9/30/68 (9 mo)	360,000	312,931	152,525	32,688	930,700	23,034
9/30/69	574,000	431,944	203,366	43,575	1,399,942	81,380
6/30/70 (9 mo)	468,300	341,658	152,525	32,681	1,134,453	86,227
6/30/71	624,600	472,958	203,366	43,575	1,479,554	24,196
6/30/72	624,600	466,148	223,366	52,660	1,443,265	
6/30/73	648,632	371,001	223,366	52,660	1,546,751	133,960
6/30/74	670,575	363,824	223,366	52,660	1,516,560	101,668
6/30/75	695,700	366,499	223,366	52,660	1,657,935	239,671
6/30/76	695,625	351,985	223,366	52,660	1,567,072	116,468
6/30/77	767,560	351,715	223,366	60,183	1,713,413	168,246
6/30/78	773,560	358,751	273,366	60,183	1,876,066	200,526
6/30/79	943,160	406,374	293,366	67,706	1,961,330	
6/30/80	943,160	393,029	473,902	72,445	2,193,612	
6/30/81	908,416	565,562	516,553	78,990	2,316,610	4,615
6/30/82	811,776	657,644	516,552	78,990	2,377,127	
6/30/83	884,760	668,104	524,462	70,336	2,745,765	
6/30/84	893,920	735,251	540,671	72,443	2,506,523	3,563
6/30/85	1,031,520	714,355	540,671	63,553	3,061,076	
6/30/86	1,055,423	856,773	543,062	74,064	2,969,018	43,878

#### ARTICLES ON PPL FUNDING

Library aid bill introduced in State Senate; Providence Journal-Bulletin; February 11, 1987; p.A-14; City edition.

DiPrete to do whatever "we can" to lift library out of money crunch; January 29, 1987; p.A-12; City edition.

Official urges end to spat between city library, state; Providence Journal-Bulletin; December 6, 1986; p.A-8; Metro edition.

Fox Point branch of public library plans to move; Providence Journal; November 26, 1986; p.B-1; City edition.

The Governor's race; A vote for the Arts, Here's how the candidates stand on support; Providence Sunday Journal; November 2, 1986; p.H-1; all editions.

Campaign '86; Bristol County candidates discuss range of issues; Providence Journal; October 24, 1986; p.C-1; East Bay edition.

More money, less talk for libraries; Providence Sunday Journal; October 19, 1986; p.B-13; all editions.

Readers respond to cutbacks at the Providence library; Providence Journal; October 3, 1986; p.A-21; all editions.

State's principal library deserves help; Providence Sunday Journal; September 21, 1986; p.B-8; all editions.

Worthy goal of maintaining a superior library service; Providence Journal; April 29, 1986; p.A-10; all editions.

Don't sell short a state treasury of knowledge and recreation; Providence Sunday Journal; April 6, 1986; p.C-1;

Mayor Paolino's shopping list to the General Assembly; Providence Journal; March 4, 1986; p.A-12; all editions.

City councilman says state owes library more aid; Providence Journal; January 6, 1986; p.C-1; City edition.

Library needs more aid from state, Annaldo says; Evening Bulletin; January 6, 1986; p.C-1; City edition.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE  
SPEECH GIVEN AT PPL BOARD  
OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**by Bruce E. Daniels,  
Acting Director, DSLS**

physical or mental impairment,  
restricted mobility, or other  
disadvantage.

One of my primary objectives during my year as acting director of DSLS is to improve communication with boards of trustees. I saw as a beginning step the need to meet with all 46 boards and discuss two major endeavors of the Department --- our new five year long-range plan and the upcoming study of library and information services in Rhode Island.

The plan is very ambitious but I am convinced it will lead to better services for our users.

Early in 1987, a study of library and information services in Rhode Island will begin. It has been referred to as "Humphry II." In the early-1960's, John Humphry, who was Director of Springfield, Massachusetts City Library, was hired to undertake a study of all types of library and information resources in Rhode Island. The recommendations from Mr. Humphry's study led to the present structure of library services in Rhode Island. In this effort, two of PPL's present and former trustees--Knight Edwards and Martha Sherman--were key to the implementation of those recommendations. The results of their dedication and commitment provided Rhode Islanders with a great opportunity--an opportunity to access good library services.

The five year long-range plan which was developed over the last two years is a blueprint to guide the Department through 1992. This plan is unique for the Department. It is the first such plan developed with a great deal of participation by the library community. The Planning Committee was composed of representatives of the library community and library users. Three of the members were from the Providence Public Library (PPL) -- Mrs. Bundy, Mrs. Sherman and Mrs. Reeves. We were involved in a very long and tedious process -- sometimes very frustrating. It did, however, result in a realistic plan. More importantly, it provided an opportunity for the library community to have a major impact on the direction the Department of State Library Services (DSLS) will take in the next five years. Under the new plan, DSLS has as its mission:

Rhode Island, at that point, served as a model for the rest of the country. The full potential, however, was never achieved. Over the years, severe economic problems and divisive library politics kept Rhode Island from taking full advantage of the opportunity that Knight Edwards and Martha Sherman worked so hard to provide.

To provide leadership and support for the development and coordination of libraries and library service in Rhode Island in order to meet the expanding cultural, informational, recreational, and research needs of all.

In recent years there has been a tremendous revolution in the way library services are provided, in the way our users perceive them, and in what users need. In 1984, it was suggested that it was indeed time for a reexamination of library and information services. The new study will assess:

To carry out this mission, the Department has three primary goals:

1. To provide the users of the State's libraries with the most effective and efficient system of resource sharing and services by exploiting the potential of current information and communication technologies.

1. How our current structure of library services is meeting the needs of Rhode Island citizens.

2. To provide leadership and assistance in the development and evaluation of a full range of library services in every community.

2. What kinds of changes are needed to strengthen library services to more effectively meet user needs during the next ten years.

3. To ensure the provision of services and resources for residents with limited access to library services because of

3. What level of funding will be necessary to support those services.

Particular attention will be given to the roles and relationships of the Rhode Island Interrelated Library Network, the Principal

Public Library, the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services; and the Rhode Island Department of Education as they relate to the fulfillment of library and information service needs. Recommendations emanating from this study will provide us with another opportunity to take the initiative and move Rhode Island once again to the forefront in library development.

I have talked about two opportunities that exist for strengthening library services in Rhode Island. I now want to discuss the opportunity that exists for us -- PPL and DSLS -- to develop a strong and lasting partnership. Samuel Johnson once wrote: "To improve the golden moment of opportunity, and catch the good that is within our reach, is the great art of life." I believe PPL and DSLS have an opportunity to begin building a strong relationship based on trust and commitment. We cannot afford to ignore this opportunity.

The history of the relationship between our two agencies has been stormy. I believe there have been many missed opportunities that could have resulted in some very creative projects, and a lasting, trusting, and cooperative relationship. We must break the pattern of our twenty-two year history. It is not too late to begin developing that relationship.

Why, after twenty-two years of a stormy relationship, do I think we can turn it into a trusting and cooperative partnership? I am a strong supporter of PPL. I believe in the concept of the Principal Public Library, and I feel very strongly that, for library services to be effective in Rhode Island, PPL must be strong and healthy.

The foundation of my belief in and commitment to PPL comes from the experiences that I had while at The Free Library of Philadelphia. I began my career there in the early 1970's, a time when most urban libraries were in the throes of financial difficulty. Throughout my career at the Free Library, the staff functioned in an environment that consisted of frozen positions, layoffs, reduced hours, and reduced book budgets. Added to this was the fact that since the Free Library was located in the largest city in Pennsylvania and, as a result, received the greatest amount of state-aid, libraries from the suburbs and other parts of Pennsylvania usually viewed the Free Library

in a rather negative manner. Many felt that if they received the amount of money the Free Library did, they could offer much better services. However, it would not have been possible for those libraries to duplicate the extensive collection or the staff expertise. I view PPL as being in a very similar situation. It is a very difficult environment in which administrators and staff have to function.

During seven of the years I was in Philadelphia, I served in a number of positions in various branches. I fell into the mode of thinking that many branch people do. I was convinced that too much money was committed to the support of the Central Library. I felt that if I had only a small amount of that money, I could strengthen my collection; I could purchase more copies of best sellers; I could offer more programs to my community. For the last two years in Philadelphia, however, I served in a position similar to that of our regional coordinators. I worked with 26 suburban libraries that depended upon The Free Library for back-up reference services and interlibrary loan. It was in this position that I developed the appreciation for the value and the importance of a "central library." I came to believe that a central library--the core of any system--must be strong and healthy if the entire system is to be effective. If the core of a library system is weak, the whole system will suffer and will deteriorate.

It is the central library that provides the in-depth collections, the unique materials and the specialized services. It is unrealistic to think that neighborhood branches can duplicate these materials and services.

I view PPL in its role as the Principal Public Library as the "central library" of the Rhode Island Interrelated Library Network. Granted, the Rhode Island Interrelated Library Network is different from the Free Library of Philadelphia in many ways. The principles about a "central library," however, are still valid. The Principal Public library has the in-depth collections, the specialized services (such as the Foundation Center and the Patent Collection); and the staff expertise that are not available elsewhere in Rhode Island. It would not be realistic for other public libraries to attempt to duplicate the depth of the collections and resources of the Principal Public Library. For the Rhode Island Interrelated Library Network to be



vital and effective, we need a Principal Public Library that is strong.

We must work together. PPL is faced with some very serious financial problems--more severe than any of us outside the library realize. The library community must understand the severity of these financial problems and the implications for library services throughout Rhode Island. The Principal Public Library, the Regional Library Centers, local public libraries, and DSLS must come together to form a cohesive and mutually supportive community that will work cooperatively to achieve our objective of providing the highest quality library services to Rhode Island citizens.

At the state level we have a unique opportunity to advance the needs of the Principal Public Library, the Regional Library Centers; and local public libraries. The voters of Rhode Island made a very strong statement about the importance of public libraries and public library services. A year ago, when it was suggested that the library community should undertake an effort to establish the concept of the individual's right to public library services in the Rhode Island Constitution, I do not think anyone envisioned the extent of the success we were to achieve. We had a difficult task in convincing the Constitutional Convention to approve the proposed amendment. We almost lost. Yet, on election day, 67.2% of the voters did say--"Yes, public libraries are very important to us." When the General Assembly begins its new session in just a few weeks, I am optimistic that the needs of public libraries will be an agenda item.

In a meeting I had with Mrs. Bundy and Mrs. Thompson, they agreed to work with the Department to develop information to be used to create an understanding within the library community and within state government about the financial problems of the Principal Public Library and what is needed to make it the strong library it needs to be. As administrative discussions on the fiscal year 1988 budget and legislative program progress, I will use this information to discuss the need for increased library funding with the Governor's Office. DSLS is committed to gaining increased funding for the Principal Public Library, the Regional Library Centers; and local public libraries throughout Rhode Island.

I am very optimistic about the future of the Providence Public Library. I do not believe that problems from years of funding neglect can be eliminated in a year or two. I do believe, however, that the funding problems can be resolved. Once we have resolved the problems, together we must take steps to insure that the situation does not occur again. One step that could be taken is for the Providence Public Library, representatives of the City of Providence, the Department of State Library Services; and representatives of the Governor's Office to discuss and agree upon a set of principles which outline each of our respective roles and responsibilities. This would lead to a foundation of understanding and trust among the entities that have a responsibility for insuring the success of the Providence Public Library.

I am optimistic about the future. I feel very strongly that we have a unique opportunity to improve the financial stability of not only the Principal Public Library but also that of the Regional Library Centers and local public libraries in Rhode Island. A new era of trust and cooperation is possible. We must seize the opportunity before us. Working together we can achieve that greatness in library services that Rhode Islanders want and need. We can and we must complete the vision that Knight Edwards, Martha Sherman and their colleagues had twenty-two years ago.

If you're going to purchase new books ...

**Wait Until You See  
THE LEADER.**

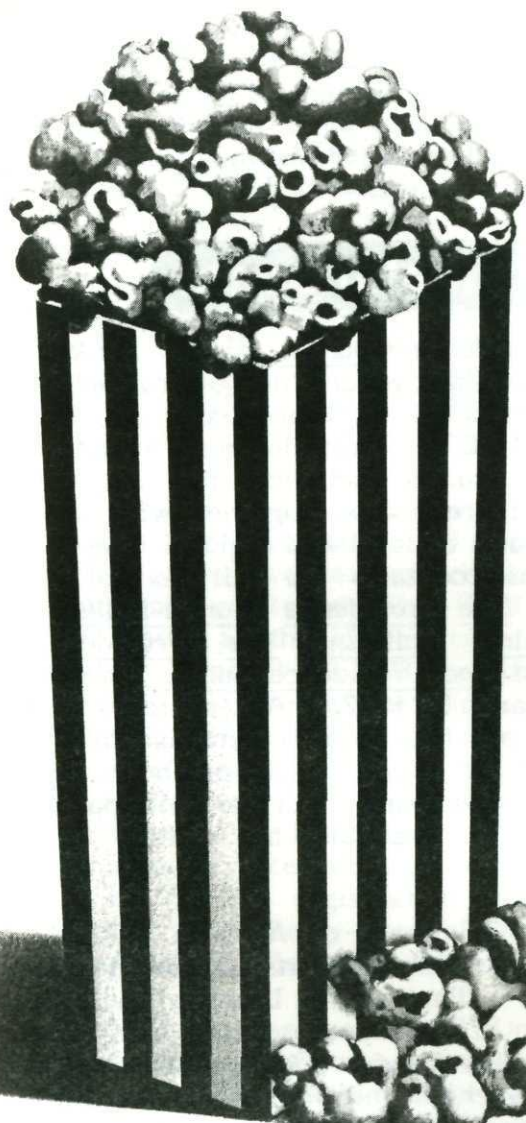
**North America's  
Largest  
Independent  
Publishers'  
Representative...**



Cook's Book Company

**... Calling Exclusively  
On Libraries!**

**Representative: Elaine Barrett  
826-1342**



# You oughta be in pictures.

**Baker & Taylor Makes It Easy With  
A Full Line Of Video Cassettes.**

Something new is popping up in bookstores and libraries across the country — VIDEO. And now, you can have a front row seat for the greatest selection of video in town.

## **A BAKER & TAYLOR AND SOUND VIDEO UNLIMITED PRODUCTION.**

Baker & Taylor's acquisition of Sound Video Unlimited, one of the nation's biggest suppliers of video cassettes and audio products, gives our customers a double feature of efficiency and economy with access to an expansive inventory of video cassettes.

## **A CAST OF THOUSANDS.**

Sharing the top billing in this video extravaganza are new and classic videos from all major studios including feature films, children's materials, instructional how-to's, and Sound Video Unlimited sports and special subject exclusives. In the supporting cast are music audio cassettes, records, and compact discs.

## **NOW OPENING AT EIGHT LOCATIONS.**

With eight distribution centers, located in Somerville (New Jersey), Commerce (Georgia), Portland (Oregon), Hollywood (Florida), Niles (Illinois), Phoenix, Denver, and Los Angeles, you'll never have to wait in line at the box office.

State-of-the-art order and shipping technology lets Sound Video Unlimited ship your mail or toll-free phone orders within 24 hours. And, if you place your telephone order before 1:30pm, it will be shipped that same day.

## **FEATURE PRESENTATION.**

A catalog especially designed for libraries and bookstores was recently released in your location. If you've not received a copy, just call the Sales Department of the Baker & Taylor division nearest you. We'll rush a video catalog and additional information about our program to you.

With Baker & Taylor, your patrons and customers will applaud your performance.

**EASTERN DIVISION**, 50 Kirby Avenue, Somerville, NJ 08876, (201) 722-8000, Customer Service, toll-free 800-526-3811, 800-352-4841 (In NJ) **MIDWESTERN DIVISION**, 501 South Gladiolus Street, Mokenca, IL 60954, (815) 472-2444, Customer Service, toll-free 800-435-1845, 800-892-1879 (In IL) **SOUTHERN DIVISION**, Mt. Olive Road, Commerce, GA 30599, (404) 335-5000, Customer Service, toll-free 800-241-6000, 800-282-6850 (In Ga) **WESTERN DIVISION**, 380 Edison Way, Reno, NV 89564, (702) 786-6700, Customer Service, toll-free 800-648-3944, (702) 786-6700, (In NV, call collect)

**BAKER & TAYLOR**  
a GRACE company

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sally Wilson, RIC, has been appointed as RILA's representative to the New England Archivists. The group is attempting to put together an archivist training program, and will be looking for funding.

Bruce Daniels is quoted in the January 1987 issue of American Libraries, page 15, concerning the library amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution.

Carol DiPrete, Roger Williams College Library, has been appointed RILA's representative to CCRI's Advisory Board for the Library Technicians Program. The Advisory Board will be pursuing the need for education of non-professional library employees.

The 1987 RILA Conference will be October 25-27 at the Providence Marriott.

The RILA Spring Business Meeting will be May 19, 1987 at Warwick Public Library.

April 7, 1987 is ALA's Legislative Day. The Rhode Island Delegation includes: Bruce Daniels, DSLS and RILA Federal Relations Liaison; Carol DiPrete, RILA ALA Councilor; Liz Futas, GSLIS; Roland Mergener, RIEMA; and Joan Reeves, COLA. Anyone interested in going to Washington, DC, should contact Bruce Daniels, DSLS.

## people

**VALERIE HORTON**, Assistant Systems Librarian at Brown University, was one of three librarians recently selected to receive a 3M/JMRT Professional Development Grant. The grant, sponsored by the 3M Company, will finance attendance at the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in San Francisco this summer.

**PAULINE LEAVER** has been named Children's Librarian at Greenville Public Library.

**ELLEN SCHIERSCHMIDT** is the new Head of Circulation Services at the Champlin Memorial Library in West Warwick.

At Wheaton College in Norton, MA, **JEAN S. CALLAGHAN** has been appointed Serials Librarian and **SHERRY O'BRIEN** has been appointed Acting Readers' Services Librarian.

**ALICE REINHARDT** has joined the staff of the Department of State Library Services as Bookmobile Librarian on a temporary basis. She will be filling in for Maryann Quinn, who is on maternity leave.

## bulletin board

- The Providence Journal is now making available to libraries and the general public its computerized file of newspaper articles, J/TEXT. J/TEXT is an electronic database containing stories written by Journal-Bulletin staff reporters, together with wire service reports of local and regional interest. The database contains the full text of all editions of The Providence Journal-Bulletin, The Evening Bulletin, The Providence Journal, and The Providence Sunday Journal since January 1, 1982. Access rates are either \$75 per hour with a minimum billing of one hour per month or \$90 per hour with no monthly minimum. Further information on J/TEXT is available by calling 401-277-2726.

- Literacy Volunteers of America - Rhode Island Inc. has scheduled its Second Annual Conference. "Partners in Literacy" will be the theme of the conference which will feature speakers and workshops focused on the tutor/student partnerships and partnerships among community literacy agencies. The conference will take place on Saturday, April 25 from 9AM to 3:30PM at the Newport Naval Base. Conference brochures and registration forms are available by calling 781-3090.

- "Legal Information Service to the Public Provided by the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)," is a new brochure outlining the information and services provided by the AALL. The AALL provides workshops, consulting, surveys, and materials all geared to assist non-law trained librarians in serving the legal information needs of the public. The brochure is available from: Chair, Legal Information Services to the Public Committee, AALL, 53 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 703, Chicago, IL 60604 (312-939-4764).

- "Archival Principles" is the theme of the Spring Meeting of the New England Archivists. The Spring Meeting begins Friday, May 15 with a limited-enrollment

## calendar

workshop taught by David Horn of the Boston Edison Company, who will provide an introduction to the basic theories of archival administration. The Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 16 features ten sessions on the theme of archival principles. Both events will take place at the University of Southern Maine, Portland. The fee for Friday's workshop is \$30, and the fee for Saturday's meeting is \$18 NEA Member and \$20 non-member. Contact: Louise M. Kenneally, NEA Registrar, Archives, Stonehill College, Easton, MA 02357 (617-238-1081, EXT 396).

- "Librarians as Colleagues: Working Together Across Racial Lines" is the theme of an ALA preconference sponsored by the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Feminist Task Force at the University of California, Berkeley, June 24-26. The preconference is designed to increase participant awareness; develop strategies for training others; aid in the development of EEO and Affirmative Action Planning; and build information links in libraries and library professional organizations. Registration, room and board will be \$145; registration information is available from Betty-Carol Sellen, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, NY 11210.

- Rhode Island now has 12 United States Government Depository Libraries with the addition of Barrington Public Library in January. Plans call for Barrington to enter into a cooperative collection development arrangement with other libraries in the Island Interrelated Library System.

## jobline

The Rhode Island Library Association has established a minimum recommended salary of \$19,000 for a full-time beginning librarian in 1987.

**SYSTEMS ANALYSIS/PLANNING LIBRARIAN** - University of Rhode Island. Send letter of application, resume and names and addresses of three references to Arthur P. Young, Dean, University Libraries, The University of Rhode Island, P.O. Box 357, Kingston, RI 02881-0356 by March 31, 1987. EOE/AA

**REFERENCE ASSISTANT** - Rhode Island Historical Society - 24 hours per week (3 days). Educational requirements: B.A.; experience in library procedures preferred; knowledge of genealogical research desirable. Salary commensurate with library experience and degrees. Benefits: Blue Cross/Blue Shield Plan 100 or RIGHA. Vacation and sick time are prorated based upon the 24 hour week. TIAA/CREF retirement after 24 months. Contact: Paul Campbell, Library Director, 331-8575. Closing date for applications is March 15, 1987.

**MARCH 10** - RIEMA Conference, Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick Campus, 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM. For more information and registration call Linda Aldrich, Conference Chairman, 846-4849.

**MARCH 24** - Young Adult Round Table, "Prize Winning Books," Harmony Public Library, 9:30 AM.

**MARCH 24** - State Advisory Council on Libraries, University of Rhode Island, 4 PM.

**APRIL 5 to APRIL 11** is NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

**APRIL 7** - ALA's Legislative Day, Washington, DC.


**APRIL 7** - CD ROM -- a program sponsored by RI/JMRT. Guest speakers include Fay Hamilton from Silver Platter and Randolph Hock from DIALOG. Free - 7 PM at Cranston Public Library. For more information contact Susan Humerickhouse, Warwick Public Library (739-5440).

**APRIL 25** - Literacy Volunteers of America - Rhode Island Second Annual Conference, 9:00-3:30, Newport Naval Base.

**APRIL 28** - Young Adult Round Table, "Hi/Lo Update," Newport Public Library, 9:30 AM.

**MAY 15-16** - New England Archivists Spring Meeting, University of Southern Maine at Portland.

**MAY 19** - RILA Spring Business Meeting, Warwick Public Library.



*sign of the*  
**UNICORN**  
**BOOKSHOP**

*specializing in out of print books  
books searched & ordered*

*689 Kingstown Road, Peace Dale, R.I. 02883  
401-789-8400*

*Mary Jo Munroe*

### 1987 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Jonathan S. Tryon URI/GSLIS	Member-at-Large	Peter E. Bennett Providence Public Library
Vice President/ President Elect	Catherine Mello Alves East Providence Public Library	Past President	Roberta A.E. Cairns East Providence Public Library
Secretary	Marguerite E. Horn Brown University Rockefeller Library	ALA Councilor	Carol K. DiPrete Roger Williams College Library
Treasurer	Douglas A. Pearce Warwick Public Library	NELA Councilor	Janet A. Levesque Cumberland Public Library

### 1987 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Conference	Kathy Ryan Salve Regina Library	Publications	Linda Walton Butler Hospital Library
	Karan Quinn State Library	Budget and Finance	Douglas A. Pearce Warwick Public Library
Membership	Stewart P. Schneider URI/GSLIS	Intellectual Freedom	Stephen Thompson Rockefeller Library Brown University
Public Relations	Vacant		Debra Cohen East Providence Public Library
Trustee Affairs	Peter Fuller NILS	Nominating	Annalee Bundy Providence Public Library
Government Relations	Roberta A.E. Cairns East Providence Public Library	Personnel	Beverly Lambert Tiverton Public Library
	Elizabeth Futas URI/GSLIS		

### SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES

Federal Relations Coordinator	Bruce Daniels DSLS	Junior Members Round Table	Amy Johnsen-Harris Providence Public Library
----------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------------	---

The RILA BULLETIN is published 10 times per year by the Rhode Island Library Association. Managing Editor: Linda Walton, Butler Hospital, 345 Blackstone Blvd., Providence, RI 02906 (456-3869); Co-Feature Editor: Norman Desmarais, Providence College, Phillips Memorial Library, Providence, RI 02918 (865-2241); Co-Feature Editor: Tanya Trinkaus, Roger Williams College Library, Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI 02809 (253-1040); News Editor: Frank Iacono, DSLS, 95 Davis Street, Providence, RI 02908 (277-2726); Technical Editors: Debra Cohen and Veronica Thomas, East Providence Public Library, 41 Grove Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914 (434-2453); Jobline: Charlotte Schoonover, Kingston Free Library, 1329 Kingstown Road, Kingston, RI 02881 (783-8254); Advertising: Deborah O'Hara, 157 Briarwood Avenue, Middletown, RI 02840. Subscriptions: Free to members; \$12/year in U.S.; \$20/year foreign. Deadlines: 1st of the month for features and 15th of the month for everything else. Features limited to four typed double-spaced pages and must be signed by author. Advertising: \$100 full page; \$50 half page; \$30 quarter page; \$10 business card size. Change of address: members contact the Membership Committee Chair and subscriptions contact the Managing Editor. Send claims to Managing Editor. For further information contact the appropriate Editor. Printing by East Side Copy, East Providence, RI (438-7878). Z673R52; LC 57-26438.

Rhode Island Library Association  
150 Empire Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

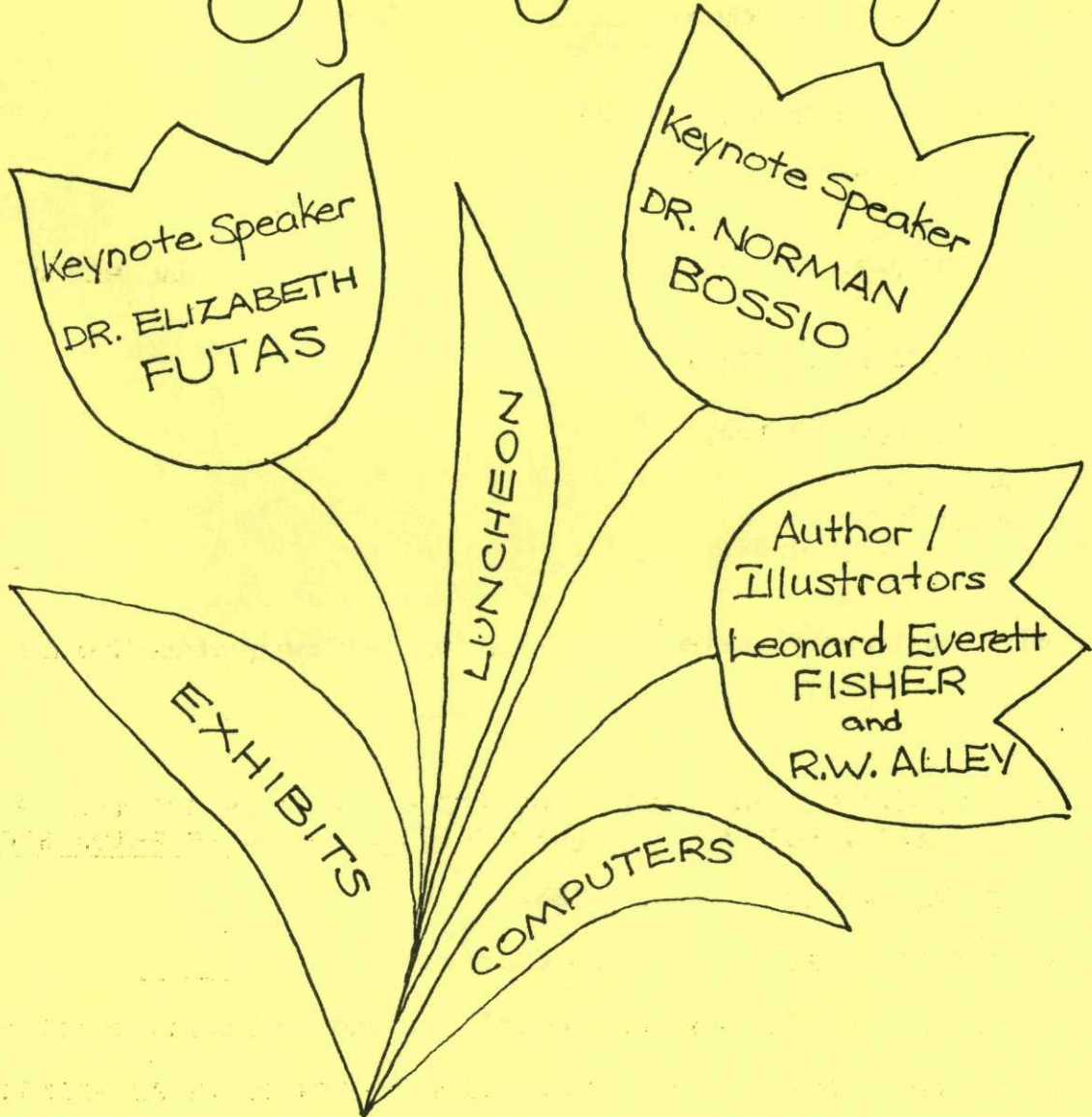
Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Providence, R.I.  
PERMIT NO. 210

Providence College Archives Library  
Phillips Memorial Library  
River Avenue & Eaton Street  
Providence, RI 02918

presents

RIEMA'S

Spring fling!



14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1987

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF R.I., WARWICK CAMPUS

7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

LINDA ALDRICH, CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN  
846-4849

# CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Early Bird Registration Fees: PAID BY FEBRUARY 23, 1987

Members (including RILA)	\$20.00
Nonmembers	30.00

Fees from Feb. 24 to March 10, 1987

Members (including RILA)	25.00
Nonmembers	35.00

Registration includes Buffet Luncheon, AM Coffee an', and PM Punch and Cookies

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO RIEMA

SEND CHECK AND THIS FORM TO:

Linda Aldrich  
37 Elmwood Ave.  
Middletown, R.I. 02840

Please feel free to duplicate this form for fellow professionals.

## IMPORTANT:

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS MAY CHOOSE TO ATTEND ANY SESSIONS THEY WISH WITHOUT PRIOR SIGN-UP EXCEPT FOR TWO WORKSHOPS WHICH DO REQUIRE PRIOR SIGN-UP:

PLEASE CHECK IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND:

E Hands-on Book Repair (Double Session I & II) \_\_\_\_\_

G Displays: What To Do When There's No One But You (Session II) \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK THE PROGRAM LISTINGS FOR MATERIALS TO BRING TO THESE WORKSHOPS

*This conference is for you!  
See you there -  
Linda*