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# Rhode Island Library Association BULLETIN



**FALL CONFERENCE ISSUE**

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

December 1978

Volume 51 No. 5

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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 1/4 page, \$35 per 1/2 page, and \$50 per full page. Call the advertising manager for further information.

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# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

FALL CONFERENCE ISSUE



This is my last issue as Editor of the Bulletin and beginning with the January issue, Judith Plotz, the Associate Editor, will take over. I'm certain that she will do an excellent job. I have enjoyed working with Judy and the rest of the Bulletin staff and I am grateful for the cooperation and support of the RILA Executive Board. I shall continue to be an active contributor to the Bulletin and look forward to working, as a RILA member, for the advancement of the Association.

We would like to introduce two new members joining the RILA Bulletin staff with this December issue, as Contributing Editors. They are Susan R. Klein and Bill Bergeron. Susan is Coordinator of Children's Services, East Providence Public Library. She came from Cape Cod, Massachusetts in May 1978. She writes fiction, and she recently completed bibliographic work on cumulative biological effects of low-level microwave radiation. She is a member of the RILA Ad Hoc Committee on Children's Services, and a member of Women Library Workers. Bill Bergeron is Branch Librarian at the Oaklawn Branch of Cranston Public Library. He has been there two years, and before that was Reference Librarian at Cranston Public Library Central Reference. He has been Sunday Librarian at Pawtucket Public Library for seven years. He is a member of the RILA Intellectual Freedom Committee, and he studies computer science at Rhode Island Junior College. Welcome aboard, to some hard work and we hope to some satisfaction too!

This issue's illustrations are drawn from American Forest Trees by Henry H. Gibson, Hardwood Record, Chicago, 1913 (held by the Brown University Library). In honor of winter we have culled pine cones as follows: cover, clockwise starting with the upper left; Lodgepole Pine, Western Yellow Pine, Tamarack, Shortleaf Pine, and Northern White Cedar. Inside: Norway Pine, p. 15; White Pine, p. 1; and Big Tree, p. 21. Thanks go to Judy for the pine cones.



# Letters to the Editor



Nov. 8, 1978

Dear Editor:

We would like to publicly thank the Conference Committee for providing us with a stimulating day at the RILA Conference. With the problems of short-staffing and long hours it is easy to fall into a routine that leaves no time for intellectual stimulation; no room for thinking about the larger issues; no chance to interact with other librarians in the meaningful way that tends to germinate new ideas.

This year the RILA Conference was both varied and consistently interesting, providing food for thought in matters practical as well as philosophical. Our consciousness was raised as to the rights of people with special needs and we were inspired by an experiment in medical information networking. An exciting vision of an automated statewide network, the hard choices confronting continuing education, and the experience of a noted YA librarian rounded out a rewarding and enjoyable day.

We hope the fine work of the conference will be continued in programming throughout the coming year.

Susan Adler Albert  
Peter E. Bennett  
Reference Librarians  
Pawtucket Public Library

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November 28, 1978

Dear Editor:

In response to Elaine Campanelli's letter to you, published in the Nov. 1978 issue, a figure on how many public librarians belong to RIEMA might be available from that association -- perhaps you could obtain it and let us know. However, it is my feeling that RILA is a broadly based organization for all types of librarians, library workers, and trustees, whereas RIEMA has a more specialized orientation. If I were a school librarian, I would belong to both; if I were a medical librarian, I would belong to RILA, SLA, of R.I., and the Association of R.I. Health Sciences Librarians.

I did the membership analysis in 1977 (Bulletin issue July-Aug. 1977), and Jane Gudelsky the one reported in the Feb. 1978 issue; we did not break out school librarians by high school vs. elementary. I do know that college and university librarians were an entirely separate category (92, or 18% in Jane's analysis). As these analyses were published some time ago, I'm sending Elaine copies which may clear up some of the points she raised.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Corkill  
Coordinator of Adult Services  
Pawtucket Public Library



## 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, except as noted.*

- Dec. 15 Rhode Island Archivists Luncheon program. Guest speaker: Virginia Adams, Special Collections Librarian, Providence Public Library. Topic: Report on Columbia University Conservation Seminar, Summer 1978. For further information, contact: Sally Wilson, Special Collections, RIC, 274-4900, ext. 253.
- Jan. 7-12 ALA Midwinter Conference. Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington, D.C. No advance conference registration. Room reservation deadline: December 24. See American Libraries, October 1978 for complete details.
- Jan. 8 Cooperative Juvenile Book Review. Topic: "Meet the Illustrator." Department of State Library Services, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.
- Jan. 10 R. I. Library Film Cooperative Preview Session: Children's films. Warwick Public Library. 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon. Repeated at 1:30-4:00 p.m.

- Jan. 17 Association of Health Science Librarians. Dinner meeting. Topic: "Patient Education." Women and Infants' Hospital, Providence. For details, call 274-1100, ext. 578.
- Mar. 26-27 Rhode Island Educational Media Association (RIEMA). Sixth Annual Conference. Cranston Hilton. Details forthcoming in future issues of Bulletin and Media News.



## RILA • SRRT HOTLINE

*The RILA Bulletin editors ask local library employers in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut to send us news of upcoming openings at any level in their libraries. There is no advertising fee. Write or call Barbara Cohen, Adams Library, Rhode Island College, Providence, R.I. 02908. Telephone 401-456-8125.*

*Job-seekers desiring a copy of the most recent monthly Jobline may obtain one by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the SRRT coordinator: Marcia Hershoff, 37 Greenbriar Rd., Greenville, R.I. 02828. In order for a job notice to appear in the Bulletin, it must be received before the 15th of the preceding month.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY, Assistant State Librarian. Specific responsibility for personnel administration, federal programs, planning, and evaluation. Administrative experience, appropriate qualities of leadership; accredited MLS + 8 years experience required. Salary: \$16,960-23,320. Contact: Mrs. Avis M. Duckworth, State Librarian, New Hampshire State Library, 20 Park St., Concord, NH 03301 (LJ Hotline Nov 13)

BENNINGTON COLLEGE, Technical Processes Librarian. Cataloger and technical processes supervisor of both book and non-book material. Required: MLS + 1 year professional cataloging experience required. Knowledge of art history & Russian, German, Spanish, or French desirable. Opportunity to participate in Library Management and Public Services. Send resume and two letters of reference by Jan. 15 to: Robert M. Agard, Crossett Library, Bennington College, Bennington, VT 05201 (Chronicle Nov. 6)

EMERSON COLLEGE, Head of Collection Access. Responsible for cataloging and classification of all materials; supervision of flow of material through technical services; participation in reference and instructional program of library. Required: MLS + 1 year cataloging experience; familiarity with machine-readable data bases and OCLC. Submit resume to: Nancy L. Heller, Personnel Representative, Emerson College, 148 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02116 (Boston Globe 19 Nov)

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY LAW LIBRARY. Technical Processing Assistant. To assist with catalog and acquisitions operations; maintain and control serials records; and provide assistance to patrons. Required: AE degree or equivalent; 2 yrs. experience in serials/technical dept. of an academic library; organizational and typing skills. Key punch experience desirable. Submit resume to Office of Personnel Services, 101 Hayden Hall, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115 (Boston Globe 26 Nov.)

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## RILA 1978 FALL CONFERENCE

### Summary

by Matthew Higgins and Judith Plotz

The Rhode Island Library Association Annual Fall Conference fulfilled the promise of what a conference ought to be: the stimulation of programs dealing with issues we had mulled over for some time and issues that were new to us; the pleasure of informal contact with colleagues we hadn't seen for a while and with new ones; the smell of fresh sea air as a break in the more land-bound routine. The weather was fair and calm; the temper of the Conference also. The Conference Committee is to be complimented on a well-planned and well-run Conference.

But my suspicious nature leads me to wonder if the Conference was too calm. Where was controversy? Heated debate? I wonder whether real disagreement was glossed over in order to achieve surface unity. Certainly the issues addressed: continuing education, professional library associations, treatment of abusive patrons, personnel policies are not matters of complete agreement. Let us at future meetings not sit quiet out of misguided politeness, but stand up and speak our minds. (JP)

#### Continuing Education In Rhode Island: Questions And Answers

Mattie Gustafson, Director of the Tiverton Library, got things rolling by introducing the panel for the first program, "Continuing Education in Rhode Island: Questions and Answers." The panel members were Dean Bernie Schlessinger; Gail DeStefano, Barrington Public Library; Susan Bullock, Chesire (Conn.) Public Library; Lee Flanagan, Bronson Library (Waterbury, Conn.); and Pat McGrath, V.A. Hospital (Boston). Mrs. Gustafson continued by reading several definitions that would be central to the discussion i.e., continuing education, Continuing Education Unit (CEU) and staff development. She then outlined the several areas that would be discussed and the panel was prepared and eager to face the questions of the RILA Continuing Education Committee.

The Committee's questions elicited some interesting responses from the panel with continuing education being placed on a continuum with staff development. According to one panel member CE could be looked at as a broad growth experience or it might be narrowly defined as a requirement for job advancement. The narrow definition seemed to imply that credit would only be given for formal course work whereas the broader one would allow credit to be awarded for "life experiences."

Some good discussion was generated when Bee Lufkin asked the panel if they felt that CE effected the service of libraries to the patron. Lee Flannagan, our old friend and sometimes supporter of professionalism, held forth on that topic and somehow or other concluded that there was a need for continuing education in advancing professionalism. Dean Schlessinger answered the question more in the context in which it was asked. In his concise reply the Dean stated that "... continuing education develops the staff and makes the librarian interesting to the patron." At this point the Dean presented a brief overview of the origins of the CEU, citing the efforts of Betty Stone to bring the CEU into library practice.

Pat McGrath outlined the certification requirements for medical librarians, and while she felt that CE should be a voluntary activity she accepted the mandatory provisions of medical librarianship. The fear was expressed that recognition of the CEU would lead to mandatory CEU. In his response, Dean Schlessinger held the opinion that it was possible to have the CEU without any mandatory elements built in. But, he pointed out, experience has shown that where the CEU has been set up there have not been many participants. It seems that members of the profession do not want it. He feels that to make CE more attractive some type of recognition, other than a pat on the back, must be forthcoming. Without going into details he suggested that there should be some sort of tangible incentives.

The remainder of the program dealt with the nature of CE, its unstructured format and its lack of rigour vis-a-vis academic courses. The distinction was made between the CEU and academic credit with the explanation that the CEU was part of a consumer oriented program that deals with current problems. Several other questions were raised by the Committee and, in general, were handled well by the panel. (MH)

#### Health Information Network

Health Information for the Whole Community was the topic of one program. The speaker, Ellen Gartenfeld, is Network Coordinator of the Community Health Information Network (CHIN) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This network is a pilot project funded by the National Library of Medicine and Massachusetts sources. Its participants are six public libraries in the Cambridge area and the Mt. Auburn Hospital Library as a backup resource. The public libraries are developing their own health information collections (a union list of these is being created in computer accessible form), and their staffs offer reference service for health information.

Ms. Gartenfeld points out the background which gives rise to this kind of library service: a "consumer rights" movement in which people believe the lay person has a right to know about the treatment being provided by professionals. Health care professionals are feeling a new responsibility to educate patients for better health. In this context, the Mt. Auburn Hospital administration undertook the Network project. Ms. Gartenfeld thinks that cooperation for health information service could equally well be initiated by public librarians approaching health and medical librarians.

Ms. Gartenfeld offers several recommendations for the operation of a health information network. One concerns public relations. Congressman Tip O'Neill had his picture taken with one of the Network librarians at the awarding of the grant to the CHIN. This photo in the newspapers evidently assured the public that the project was "respectable." Many librarians worry that such a service may lay them open to suit for practicing medicine without a license. Legal counsel to CHIN assures them there are no grounds for suit. Ms. Gartenfeld thinks librarians are more seriously concerned about identifying good quality materials in the medical field. A bibliography of health and medical reference material is available on request to:

Ellen Gartenfeld  
Community Health Information Network  
Mt. Auburn Hospital  
330 Mt. Auburn Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Another bibliography of medical books for a lay audience is available from the Science Reference Department of the Boston Public Library.

For further information about CHIN, read Ellen Gartenfeld's article in Library Journal, October 1, 1978, pp. 1911-1923. (JP)

Automated Circulation Systems in Rhode Island:  
An Ideal Opportunity

In her presentation "Automated Circulation Network in Rhode Island: An Ideal Opportunity," Jane Burke, Midwest Regional Manager of CL Systems Inc., covered the networking experience in Illinois and its implications for the development of networks in Rhode Island. She restricted her topic to the networking aspects of the state's automated circulation system, concentrating on the interlibrary loan function. After a brief historical description of the 18 cooperative library systems, Ms. Burke went on to a more detailed description of the two kinds of networking going on in Illinois that are using automated systems.

In the first type of automated system currently in operation - the clustering arrangement - a number of libraries share the cost of the automated system. Under this arrangement, a single data base is shared by a number of libraries. In what Ms. Burke assured

us is a simple concept, the system can check, at any time, whether material is owned and the circulation status of the material. Communication is by terminals hooked to a dedicated telephone which is connected to the computer. It is this dedicated telephone that is probably the highest continuous cost item, running at an approximate cost of \$8.00 per month, per mile. In Chicago the average cost is approximately \$88.00 per month, per terminal.

The advantages of the cluster arrangement are: libraries do not lose their autonomy, or, they can still retain their own rules; a single "look-up" will reveal location and availability of all copies of a specific item; blacklisted users are blacklisted or cleared in all libraries and, perhaps most important, it is relatively inexpensive. The disadvantages of the arrangement include difficulty in reaching bibliographic agreement for the data base, lack of agreement on the format of overdue notices and in the method of charging back the cost of the system. In Illinois the cost of the system is charged by the percent of circulation of each participating library.

The other arrangement in operation in Illinois is the "Interconnect" system, in which library systems dial from one data base to another. When a terminal dials and a telephone answers, the dialing terminal is then part of the data base that it dials. In this system individual libraries purchased automated circulation systems and, under a time slot arrangement, can find titles owned by each library as well as their circulation status. One big disadvantage of "Interconnect" is that there are separate data bases which means that costs are higher. The benefits that are common to both systems are as follows: Illinois libraries know what's owned in the state, searching is much quicker; fill rate for interlibrary loans is increased, unique holdings are discovered, resource sharing is encouraged and all libraries contribute. While she did not directly recommend either type of system for Rhode Island, Ms. Burke suggested that we begin studying the possibilities of expanding from our present automated circulation systems to include the entire state. (MH)

#### Managing Abusive Patrons

Three non-librarians addressed RILA conferees in a program on the abusive patron: John J. Carr, Executive Director, Family Service Society, Pawtucket; Jim Lyons, Director of Security, Brown University; and Thomas Pustell, Director, Counseling Services, Rhode Island College. I felt this session was a matter of the learning about the problems librarians face as much as librarians learning from the panelists. Library work is social service work!

The panelists offered some useful recommendations for the unpleasant problem of difficult patrons. The first is to plan ahead: make liaisons with other services including the police and a few social service agencies. Get to know their people personally and make sure they understand what kind of patron problems the library faces. Then in emergencies you can call on these services and get

swift and effective help. Another suggestion is to learn crisis intervention techniques - that is, to learn some practical psychology. This would be valuable to any librarian dealing directly with the public. A further recommendation is that the library staff should work together to deal with difficult patrons. Administrators should understand the situation of their "front line" staff, and support them. In cases of emergency, staff should have cues for each other in order to act as a team. Possibly some staff members can be identified as being especially good at handling crises; perhaps others find crises especially difficult and they should be protected.

Related issues were brought up by the audience: - What do you do with people who smell? - Librarians might take CPR training to save heart attack victims. (JP)

### The New Copyright Law

In a program entitled "The New Copyright Law," Marybeth Peters, Chief, Information and Reference Division, Copyright Office, Library of Congress, helped to clear up some of the confusion surrounding the new copyright law. In this program, which was sponsored by the SLA/R.I. Branch, Ms. Peters proved to be engaging, knowledgeable and effective.

In dispelling some of our misconceptions about the law, Ms. Peters informed us that copyright will not be perpetuated but will be in effect for the life of the author plus 50 years, with no provision for renewal. Anonymous and pseudonymous works will be copyrighted for 100 years from the creation time or 75 years from publication date. Copyright does not apply to ideas, methods or plans -- it applies to the way that any of these are expressed. Works done by U.S. government employees are not covered by copyright while U.S. government funded material may be copyrighted at the wish of the funding agency. And just because a copyright notice is not put on a book, or other work, does not mean that that book is in the public domain.

The copyright owner is guaranteed five basic rights which are:

1. The right to control all copying.
2. The right to make derivative works.
3. The right to decide whether the work will be published.
4. The right to decide whether the work will be publicly performed.
5. The right of public display.

These rights do have limits on them and under the fair use provision individuals supposedly have a right to use work in areas where it does not hurt the copyright owner.

The special section of the law that deals with libraries puts forth such requirements as having the library open to the public or special researchers and copying can't be making a profit either directly or indirectly. It is not likely that the law will be challenged soon in public, academic or school libraries but publishers may soon test it in special libraries. (MH)

## Adult Books For Young Adults

Who is the young adult? What are they reading? Why are reading levels dropping? These are some of the questions addressed by Lillian Morrison, Coordinator, Young Adult Services, N.Y. Public Library, in "Adult Books for Young Adults."

Reminding us that individuals develop at different rates, Ms. Morrison pointed to the difficulty involved in defining the term young adult. She was able to isolate several factors that are common to adolescents. For example, all kids are worried about some aspect of their development as they attempt to achieve independence from parental influence. During this period of instability their energies must be channeled in ways that are favorable to society. In this channeling process books and wise librarians can be of great value.

One of the major difficulties for the young adult librarian is that he/she must fill a wide spectrum of interests. Books must be provided to help teenagers to understand the nature and consequences of such things as pregnancies, venereal disease and abortion. The books must show that intimate relationships carry with them certain responsibilities. The librarian must be aware of what has been happening in contemporary society and how this is reflected in the latest young adult publications.

There has been a significant surge in the publications of high interest, low reading level books for young adults. While these books are being read quite extensively many teen-agers are reading books that might be classified as adult. A list is published each year to try to identify those adult books that would be of interest to young adults. A traditional division exists with girls still reading love stories and boys still preferring sports.

Touching briefly on why reading levels are dropping steadily in both junior and high school students, Ms. Morrison suggested several possible reasons. She also discussed the extent that audiovisual materials effect literacy and the influence of television and motion pictures in teen-age book requests. Should librarians buy books with T.V. or movie tie-ins, like The Sting or Star Wars, in which case the book was written from the movie? As images are already formed these books are really not worthwhile reading. But this poses a dilemma for the librarian: if we choose books that are popular, but not good, are we acting as censors? No, we are using professional judgement with each choice being a weighing process. For, Ms. Morrison rightly concluded, if we buy indiscriminately who needs librarians? Instead, we should discuss their reading habits with the teen-agers themselves, challenging their choices and not be blown along by every wind of the mass media. (,H)

## Special Collections In Rhode Island

Six Rhode Island special collections were reviewed in this program as follows: the John Hay Library, Brown University, by Sam Streit; Rhode Island College by Sally Wilson; University of Rhode Island by Abner Gaines; the Providence Athenaeum by Julie Boeghold; Naval War College by Tony Nicolosi; and the Rhode Island Historical Society by Nancy Chudacoff. All representatives cordially invited interested members of the public to visit their collections, sometimes with the suggestion that visitors call ahead of time to make sure the librarian will be available. The scope of these collections is too varied to be detailed here. A printed introduction to each collection was available at the session, and may be requested by writing to these libraries. (JP)

## The Rhode Island Governor's Conference

A panel made up of Margo Brown, President, Massachusetts Library Association; Jewel Drickamer, Director, R. I. Dept. of State Library Services; and Mildred Nichols, R. I. Governor's Conference Steering Committee, following an introduction by Moderator, Roberta Cairns, presented an update on the status of the Conference.

Miss Drickamer, the first speaker, informed us of the work being done by the Steering Committee, who its members are, and some of the problems that it is encountering. She also reported on the work of the Conference Organization Committee, the committee responsible for what goes on at the Conference itself. She expressed confidence that the Biltmore Hotel will be ship shape and functioning some time before the Conference. She pointed to some of the issues raised at the Speak Outs and made some observations on their successful attendance. Some general remarks were made on the process of delegate selection, the resource core group and the role of RILA in forwarding the Conference.

Mildred Nichols concentrated on networking and information services. She explained that the concept of information services has not penetrated the public mind and that the private sector is a major information provider. She drew attention to the need for a directory of information services in Rhode Island - a directory that should include such things as what institution has what information data base. How do libraries interface with data bases held by companies like Lockheed? How are they to join in? In her opinion a task force is needed to study the problem. She feels that the question of information services - the great ungrappled with issue - must be addressed by the Conference.

In reporting on the Massachusetts Governor's Conference Margo Brown talked about its problems. The Conference was quickly and poorly planned, issues were not looked at and a polarization developed between the lay people and the librarians. Librarians were talking when they should have been listening. The focus of the

Conference was on the generation of resolutions whereas it should have been on generating awareness. She warned about the use of librarian's jargon, especially in position papers. The Conference did have some successes in identifying needs and making recommendations. In her final comments she encouraged RILA to play a real role in following up the Conference with an action plan - one that would have a tie-in with the delegates.

The informative reports were followed by a question and answer period during which several excellent suggestions were made with the view toward making the R. I. Governor's Conference a smashing success. (MH)

#### Researching Rhode Island

William G. McLoughlin, Chairman of the American Civilization Program at Brown University, spoke about the book he authored, Rhode Island, A Bicentennial History, W. W. Norton, 1978. On the table beside him lay a thick bundle of file folders stuffed with notes - this was the material that would not fit into his book - material on notable women of Rhode Island, inventors, sports heroes, the Mafia, fishing industry, education. McLoughlin recommended several topics for books on special aspects of Rhode Island for the secret aspiring writers in the audience.

The talk was interesting from a librarian's point of view because it gave insight into how a very sophisticated researcher uses library resources. McLoughlin used Brown University Library, the Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence Public Library, and the Rhode Island State Archives for his history of Rhode Island. He had the help of two student research assistants who examined sources and wrote preliminary reports. McLoughlin recommends the R. I. Historical Society's quarterly. He also found PhD, masters, and even undergraduate honors theses invaluable sources for Rhode Island history. He recommends that librarians take active part in preserving local records, and especially, when microfilming documents, don't throw away the originals, because the microfilm copy may be blurred, have parts missing, or be otherwise unreadable. (JP)

#### Business Meeting

The annual business meeting was ably presided over by Kathleen Gunning who succeeds Ardis Holliday as RILA President. New officers were announced as follows:

Vice President/President Elect	Louise Dolan
Secretary	John Bucci
Treasurer	Ruth Corkill
Member-at-Large	Bee Lufkin
NELA Councilor	Jan Sieburth

Because of Ardis Holliday's removal to Texas, Dan Bergen will continue to serve on the Executive Board as Past President.



Treasurer Ruth Corkill reported a healthy financial situation - - RILA's best year ever. Receipts were higher and expenditures lower than expected. Ruth Corkill meticulously improved record-keeping with a new format which shows our financial condition more clearly and accurately.

The bulk of the business before the membership was brought by the newly established Personnel Committee. Kathy Gunning presented their two proposals for RILA membership decision. In response to the first, the Rhode Island Library Association adopts the ALA Policy Statement on Security of Employment in Libraries (the full text of this policy is printed in the RILA Bulletin, September 1978, p. 23-24). The second proposal concerns the fact finding function of the Personnel Committee in the case of RILA members' grievances against employers. The Committee offered a "Fact Finding Procedure" for approval by the RILA membership. This document is still tentative and is intended to be refined. The membership voted approval of the document. Personnel Committee-member Richard Olsen noted that the RILA Personnel Committee would not defend the RILA member in a grievance case - it has no authority either to defend parties or to judge cases. The committee hopes merely to assist in achieving justice by discovering and possibly publishing the facts of a case so those bodies with authority may act accordingly. (JP)

#### Two Approaches To Professionalism: ALA And NLA

General Shields, Assistant Dean, School of Information and Library Studies, SUNY at Buffalo, displayed his ready wit and stylish delivery in his comparative presentation, "Two Approaches to Professionalism: ALA and NLA." After tracing the relatively short life of the National Librarians Association, Dean Shields went on to outline the functional differences between NLA and ALA and the rationale behind the formation of NLA. The following is essentially what he had to say:

The difference between the National Librarians Association and the American Library Association is not one of rivalry but of orientation. The National Librarians Association is a forum devoted to the interests, needs, growth and development of the librarian as a professional. It is a professional association. The American Library Association is a forum for the promotion of libraries. It is an educational association. There has long been a need for such an organization as ALA and the time is right for an association such as the National Librarians Association.

Matters of professional concern should be addressed by those concerned enough to obtain the educational basis for growth and development along professional lines of service to the client. These individuals need to place their concerns in the context of the relationship between the librarian and the user of the library. There comes a point when terms of library service transcends the type of institution and its needs and it is the conviction of a growing

number of librarians that the point has been reached. Librarians are accepting the challenge by joining the National Librarians Association and beginning a dialogue about standards for professional relationships between the librarian and the user of library services. The NLA leaves the promotion of library institutional interests where they have long been in ALA.

In his closing remarks Dean Shields expressed the wish that NLA and ALA were not separate. He would like to use NLA given at least affiliate status in ALA. He then pointed to the fact that ALA membership has remained the same since 1973 while NLA membership has been doubling each year. Is there something in the wind? (MH)

+++++

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CONTINUING EDUCATION POLICY IN RHODE ISLAND:  
RESULTS OF A STUDY BY THE RILA  
CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*by Patricia Bisshopp and Gaile DeStefano*

The Continuing Education Committee of the Rhode Island Library Association undertook, in the Summer of 1978, to survey the state of continuing education in Rhode Island libraries. A questionnaire was developed to elicit information about the educational status of library employees, the policies, both formal and informal, and the practice of continuing education in the libraries contacted.

A total of 106 libraries received the questionnaire. This included public, academic, and special libraries throughout the state, but not school libraries. Fifty-one libraries replied, a response of 48%. Of these, 28 were public libraries (58% of those contacted), and 30 were special libraries (51% of those contacted). The special library sample included hospital and other health care agency libraries, business and special collections such as the R. I. Historical Society. Seven of these special libraries did not feel that their organizations were appropriate to the sample; information from the remaining 23 replies was used in the final tally. Of the fourteen academic libraries in the state, only four replied; this was thought to be too few for a meaningful response. The total number of individuals employed by the responding libraries is 545; of these 478 are in public libraries and 67 in special libraries. Responses from the public libraries cover a broad spectrum in terms of both size and attitude. Both the largest and smallest libraries replied: R. I.'s only Class V library, Providence Public, cooperated, as did all of the Class IV libraries except Pawtucket and Cranston; many very small libraries are also included.

PUBLIC: 28 libraries	SPECIAL: 23 libraries	TOTAL: 51 libraries
478 employees	67 employees	545 employees

The most impressive figure to emerge from the response is the number of employees with no formal training: 65% of the individuals employed have no formal library training on any level. Special libraries had a better record than public libraries: 44% of special library employees have no formal training; for public libraries the figure is 68%. The special libraries also have a higher ratio of professionals, as opposed to 13% of public library employees. Only one library in the state (Coventry/Anthony) requires employees with no formal training to earn a Library Technical Assistant Certificate (LTA).

NO FORMAL TRAINING AT ANY LEVEL:	PUBLIC: 68%	SPECIAL: 44%	TOTAL: 65%
SOME FORMAL TRAINING	18%	22%	18%
PROFESSIONALS:	13%	34%	15%

Of those employees with some formal library training:

SOME GRADUATE COURSES, NO DEGREE:	PUBLIC: 2%	SPECIAL: 7%	TOTAL: 3%
LIBRARY TECHINCAL ASSISTANTS (LTA):	6%	4%	6%
SOME UNDERGRAD COURSES, NO DEGREE:	8%	10%	8%

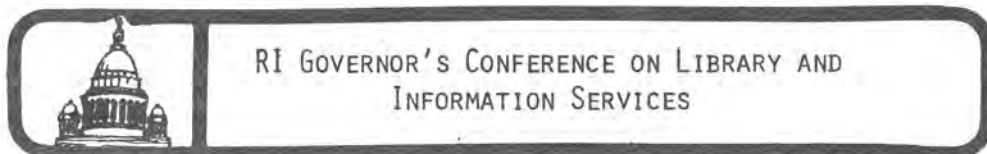
Most of the libraries surveyed reported that they have endorsed staff participation in continuing education activities. The replies concerning the implementation of this endorsement do not, however, convey a solid commitment to this laudable attitude. So many qualifying statements were attached to the answers about mechanisms for encouraging staff involvement in continuing education that these replies were impossible to quantify. Release time (time off as part of job) and flexible scheduling (time off which must be made up) appeared to be the most consistently employed means of encouragement. Some libraries provide funds for tuition fees and travel expenses for certain classes of staff under certain circumstances. Merit raises and promotion were the least reported encouragements for CE activity.

Many of the persons reporting for their libraries expressed their personal commitment to continuing education and their concern about the constraints on participation in such activities. These limitations included finances, size of library, lack of various resources, inflexibility imposed by fragmented work schedules, and the attitudes of boards of trustees and other governing bodies.

The percentage of libraries reporting endorsement of staff participation in CE activity should be viewed in the context of the actual restrictions placed upon this participation. Too often, this endorsement appears to be encouragement in theory without a mechanism to implement the theory in practice. The number of libraries whose endorsement reflects a written personnel policy formally recognized by a board of trustees or other governing body is another indicator of attitudes toward continuing education.

LIBRARIES ENDORSING STAFF PARTICIPATION IN CE ACTIVITIES:	PUBLIC: 85%	SPECIAL: 91%	TOTAL: 88%
LIBRARIES WHOSE ANSWERS REFLECT A WRITTEN POLICY:	PUBLIC: 57%	SPECIAL: 65%	TOTAL: 60%

The results of this survey highlight severe deficiencies in an important area of librarianship. The commitment to continuing education at all levels of staffing appears to be lacking in practice, however well-intentioned the attitudes of those reporting. How much of this deficit can be attributed to inattention to what may seem an issue remote from the exigencies of daily library service, and how much to an active rejection of continuing education as a priority, is unclear, and perhaps immaterial. The policies and practices of the libraries surveyed reflect the need to re-evaluate our involvement in continuing education. Mandatory continuing education is a controversial issue; but it must be considered, in the light of these results, whether or not an effective standard of continuing education can be achieved without it. Rhode Island librarians must reassess the impact of continuing education on library standards and the quality of the services they tender to their clientele.



The Steering Committee for the Rhode Island Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services met on Wednesday, November 15th at 7:30 P.M. at the Department of State Library Services.

Miss Drickamer, Director of the Department of State Library Services, reported on the SPEAKOUTS. We will not discuss that part of the meeting in this report since the RILA report for October dealt with the SPEAKOUTS and the issues that were brought forward.

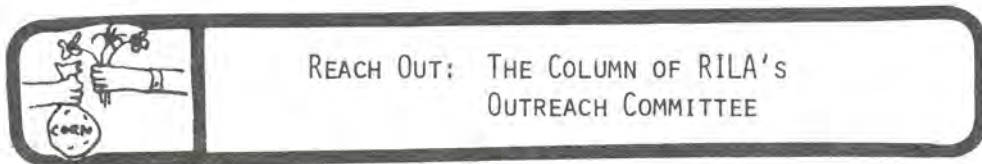
Diane Kadanoff, Chairperson for the Issues and Problems Subcommittee, reported on the task forces. Most of the task forces have held at least one meeting and several have met for a second time. Some of the task forces are still in a position to accept more members. The issues dealt with by the task forces are a primary part of the Governor's Conference and eventually the White House Conference; so, if you want to be involved in this aspect of the Conference, please contact Diane Kadanoff.

Joan Reeves, Co-Chairperson of the Public Relations Sub-Committee, reported on the press coverage of the SPEAKOUTS. Additionally, she reported on the formation of a Speaker's Bureau. Speakers will attend meetings of various organizations and groups throughout the State to talk about the Governor's Conference and library service in Rhode Island. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Speaker's Bureau can contact Mary Fallon at DSLS.

Linda Cranston, Chairperson of the Conference Organization Sub-Committee, discussed the work her group has been doing. Delegate Selection is a function of this sub-committee and it was reported that 350 nominations had been received by the date of the meeting. This sub-committee will be meeting in December to begin the decisions on delegates to the Conference.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held December 19 at DSLS at 7:30 P.M.

Roberta A.E. Carirns  
RILA Representative to the Steering Committee



Can your library serve the mentally retarded? Do you have the necessary materials on your shelves? Chances are the answer is "yes".

Libraries which serve the mentally retarded use a variety of materials. They stress the visual and audio by using films, filmstrips, tapes, records, pictures, videotapes, games, puzzles and puppets. And on the print side, book/cassette combinations, picture books, and magazines are popular.

Are there any guidelines for choosing these materials? Yes. First, and most important, know your audience. The mentally retarded, like members of any other group, are individuals, with wide interests and varying comprehension levels.

Generally, non-fiction materials are the most useful. Travel, sports, animals, hobbies, and life skills are popular, as are how-to-do-it books and simple science materials. While many appropriate materials will be found in the juvenile collection, there will be others in the adult or young adult collections. The only way to choose an item is to look at it for both verbal content and visual appeal. Materials with easy vocabulary and short sentences, which deal with people at the person's chronological age, and include numerous photographs or drawings are best.

Almost any library program would interest some mentally retarded people. Possibly the best library service is to remember the mentally retarded when publicizing your library's programs, and to be sure that they are invited to the various activities at your library.

LIBRARIES SERVE THE MENTALLY RETARDED

The following is a selected list of articles dealing with library service to the mentally retarded.

Baskin, Barbara Holland. "Library response to the challenge of mental retardation," American Libraries (January 1970), 65-68.

This article defines mental retardation and evaluates the current state of library services to this group, suggesting that little is being done. Suggests some materials and programs.

Donahoe, Barbara. "The mentally retarded enjoy libraries too," Illinois Libraries (March 1974), 209-211.

This article on setting up a library for mentally retarded children discusses materials and programs that work.

Leijonhufvud, Marta. "Are California's libraries responding to the needs of the mentally disabled?" --Well, some are trying..." California Librarian (July 1974), 26-35.

A description of three programs for the emotionally disturbed, mentally ill, and mentally retarded which include storytelling, bibliotherapy, and class visits. Includes suggestions for finding this special type of patron in your community.

Montgomery, Helen. "Special report: Outreach to the retarded," Wilson Library Bulletin (May 1976), 686-690.

This is a practical article on the use of audiovisual materials, including videotaping, with mentally retarded adults in a public library.

Young, Diana and Beverly J. Simmons. "We can grow!" School Library Journal (May 1977), 44.

Discusses how the Education of All Handicapped Children Act (PL 94-142) applies to libraries, including public libraries. Lists resources for materials to use with exceptional children.

Prepared by: Mark Baldwin, Supervisor of Institutional Services, DSLS.  
Carolyn Baldwin, Outreach Committee

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

The Graduate Library School (GLS) Dean and Faculty are pleased with the Committee on Accreditation's Visiting Team's Report which was received on November 15, 1978. They have reviewed it carefully, and have begun work in GLS Committees to respond to the specific recommendations in further progress toward the goal of provision of sound quality library education for New England. The COA Visiting Team's report is long, as are all such reports, filled with data, discussion and evaluation. The Dean and Faculty wish to share it with you, and have checked with COA to determine that its confidential label would not preclude such sharing. Publication of an extract was discussed, but it was felt that an extract would not do the document justice, and would lead to value judgements by the extractor that would be open to question.

We have therefore decided to use the mechanism for sharing that was used with drafts of the Self-Study Report, and have accordingly placed copies for your perusal at the Graduate Library School office, the Department of State Library Services in Providence, the five regional centers in Barrington, Pawtucket, Providence, Westerly, and Warwick, and the University Libraries of Connecticut (Storrs), Massachusetts (Amherst), New Hampshire (Durham), and Rhode Island (Kingston). For those of you far removed from any of these locations, please contact the office, and a loan copy can be mailed to you for reading and return.

Please remember in reading that the report is not finalized until the COA's final recommendation. It may be modified in its final form, which will be given to us at the Midwinter meeting in Washington, January 5-12.

Happy reading! More news in January.





# GALLIMAUFRY

-By Matthew Higgins

HEALTH INFORMATION: Public librarians interested in developing a network to provide health information to the general public may contact Carolyn B. Mathes, Chief, Library Service, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Davis Park, Providence, RI 02908. Telephone: 521-1700, ext. 569.

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R. I. PUBLICATION: Municipal Publications in the Public Library: Guidelines for Collection and Organization, By Susan Folsom Berman of the North Kingstown Public Library, is newly published by the South County Interrelated Library System. The 27-page booklet discusses the organization of a municipal documents collection from policy formulation and collecting to cataloging and weeding, and it includes a selected list of subject headings for municipal publications. In 1976 Guidelines for Indexing Local Newspapers, by Judith Einhorn of Kingston Free Public Library was issued. Both projects were funded through incentive grants from the R. I. Department of State Library Services. Copies of each are available from the South County Interrelated Library System, Westerly Public Library, Westerly, RI 02891. The price is \$2.00 if prepaid, or \$2.25 if billed.

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ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY: Meeting Street School announces that its annotated bibliography, Books About Handicaps for Children and Young Adults, is now available. Patricia Bisshopp suggests that this list of in-print titles should prove a useful tool in the selection and evaluation of materials that will foster positive and realistic images of disabled persons. The project was made possible by funding from the R. I. State Dept. of Education P. L. 89-313. Amendment to Title 1.

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BOND ISSUES: The voters of Cranston, Lincoln, and Pawtucket showed their infinite wisdom in passing bond issues for library building and expansion. Everyone connected with the campaigns is to be congratulated for their energetic efforts in getting the bonds passed. In this nay-saying time of Proposition 13 mentality, these are indeed three splendid achievements.

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REGIONAL REFERENCE LIBRARIAN: Peter Bennet, presently Reference Librarian at Pawtucket, and currently Bulletin Advertising Manager, has been appointed Reference Librarian for the Northern Region. Peter's experience at Pawtucket, and at West Hempstead Public Library on Long Island, gives him a first hand knowledge of effective reference service. Peter should be at his new position in January and we wish him every success.

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GET THE NAME STRAIGHT DEPT.: From the LJ Hotline; Alice Cahill writes from Massachusetts to tell us that "There is no longer any state agency within the State Department of Education known as the Bureau of Library Extension. All references to the Bureau have been deleted from the state statutes." The state agency for libraries in the Bay State is now known as the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Its Director "reports through the Board of Library Commissioners directly to one of the Governor's ten cabinet officers: the Secretary for Educational Affairs, just as the Commissioner of Education does via the Board of Education." The Board, in short, is the agency and its Director, Dave Reich, heads its staff.



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CHRISTMAS IN THE LIBRARY

T'was the night before Christmas  
and all through the shelves  
The books were all sleeping or  
reading themselves.  
The records all silent were snug  
in their bin,  
While through the big window  
the moonlight shown in.

Yule posters were hung 'round  
the library with care;  
The exhibit was done with a  
seasonal flair.  
Not a soul in the library; the  
doors all locked tight,  
So tranquil and peaceful on  
that holy night.

As midnight approached came a  
tiny inflection,  
A whisper from deep in the  
children's collection.  
"What is Christmas?" it asked,  
in a small childlike way,  
From a book that was cataloged  
that very day.

That baby book's question was  
quite a surprise,  
For a minute or two there were  
no replies;  
Then in tones so sonorous as  
though from a barrel,  
"I'm Christmas, you know, and I'm  
A Christmas Carol."

Thus this old Christmas story  
claimed Christmas was he,  
But this claim quickly met  
with a swift repartee.  
"It is I that at Christmas that  
everyone hails, I am Thomas'  
poem *A Child's Christmas in Wales*."

In less than an instant a reply  
was made;  
To the books great amazement a  
record was played.  
"I'm Christmas," it said, "You can  
all hear me sing,  
*White Christmas* is Christmas and  
so is old Bing."

"That may be the truth, but I  
think you are wrong,  
*White Christmas* is fine and a  
fairly good song,  
But sure tisn't Christmas, it's  
only just blarney,  
It is I that is Christmas, back  
home in Killarney."

And that's how it was as the  
Yule night went by.  
As one said, "I'm Christmas,"  
Another said, "I."  
With the noise growing louder  
With every new claim,  
When down through the chimney  
Santa Claus came.

"I have been to Chepachet, I'm  
on my way back."  
He cheerfully said as he laid  
down his sack.  
"And as passing the library, I  
heard all this chatter,  
So I thought I'd stop in  
To see what was the matter."

So you all think you're Christmas,  
is that it?", said he,  
With his eyes brightly shining  
and merry with glee  
But there's none of us Christmas,  
yet all of us are,  
Let the spirit of Christmas be  
your guiding star.

Then laughing a bit with a  
little ho-ho,  
He looked 'round the room and  
got ready to go.  
"I'll tell you what's Christmas,  
yes surely I will,  
It's Peace on this Earth to All  
Men of Good Will."

Then heaving his sack on his back  
with a jerk,  
He said to himself, "This has  
been a night's work."  
And as he departed he wished  
them all well.  
Did this really happen? You  
never can tell!

-Matthew Higgins

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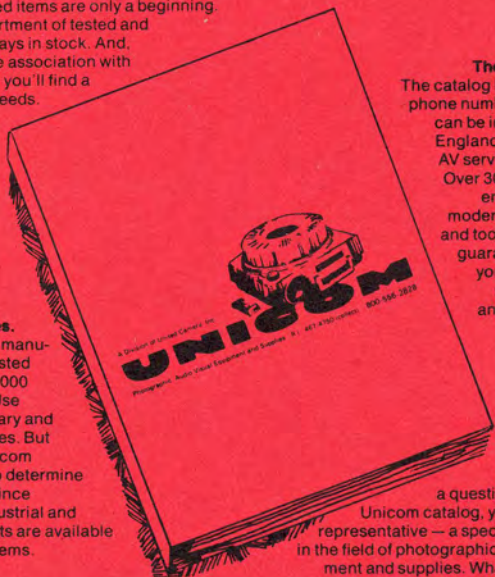
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