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Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin

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JULY-AUGUST 1988

GROWING IN THE PROFESSION; TWO LIBRARIANS DESCRIBE THEIR PROGRESS

This issue of the Bulletin continues its series on "Alternative Careers in Librarianship." Two librarians in the Rhode Island community agreed to share their professional experiences with us. One describes her progress from young reference librarian to a prospering career in information brokering; the other describes how she discovered in retirement that she could use her librarian's skills in new ways. As we approach 1989's National Library Week's focus on "Celebrating the Librarian," this kind of sharing is insightful for us all.

INTERVIEW WITH AN INFORMATION BROKER (The following account represents a composite of two interviews with De Johnson.)

At the age of six she wanted to be a librarian. At fourteen, she was working in the county library's cataloging and acquisitions departments. By the time she had graduated from high school, she had worked in every part of a public library from book repair, to shelving, to circulation, to inventory, at the main library, all of its branches, and the bookmobile. She had organized and run the annual booksale for two years, and she still earned well under minimum wage. It didn't surprise anyone that she went to Syracuse University for a master's degree in library science after working in two other public libraries and an academic library during college years. It didn't surprise anyone to discover she had been working a minimum of 25 hours per week in a technical library while completing her master's degree in two semesters. And it didn't really surprise anyone when she accepted an offer from the Providence Public Library where salaries were still at a subsistence level, and the reputation for service was high.

She was shy and quiet, hesitant about voicing an opinion, and very comfortable serving as a Reader's Advisor. She became a book selector and maintained an extensive fiction and literature collection. After enhancing her skills in the Reference Department, she was promoted (with a slight pay reduction) to branch head. During those years she gained confidence, lost most of her shyness, and kept studying. She worked as a volunteer to organize and maintain a large environmental collection. She had learned computer searching for the first time in the late 1960's, and continued to take courses in computer science, business, and paralegal techniques.

Derryl R. Johnson is now an entrepreneur and the first full-time information broker in

INFORMATION ON CANDIDATES FOR
RILA OFFICERS BEGINS ON PAGE 9.

Rhode Island. But she says that very little of her actual library experience was transferable to her new job beyond her strong commitment to quality service.

C. D. Research, Ltd. was incorporated in 1982 as a for-fee information researching service. It had begun a few years before when several business users of the library asked her to work on special projects for their companies beyond what could be done within the framework of traditional reference. These projects often involved other library collections, non-library information sources, and usually included reading, abstracting and reporting the results. The company was formed to serve the harried business person and professional who had little interest, few skills, and/or little time to go in search of information beyond what a ready-reference question could handle.

Derryl went off to more classes! She began to read more information industry news, and even became more service-oriented than ever before. The company name reflects that commitment, because C. D. does not stand for "see De" but rather for "client-designed" researching. And clients have indeed designed the company's work. An advertising agent asked for a comparative chart of statistics on New York versus the New England states on the changing profile of farming and farm land over the past twenty-five years; a bank requested summaries of its subscription services' updates tailored for its key staff; a non-profit organization looked for grant resources, requesting direct verification of all valid references; a lawyer requested background information (both court cases and topical) to prepare a brief or to locate expert witnesses with proven track records in the court room.

She was still not completely prepared in spite of her intensified training. One difficulty loomed larger than anything. It was easy to create the company and design the business card and brochure. It was easy to do the work that came in. However, she was still thinking as a traditional librarian most of the time, and a traditional librarian frequently does a service for a patron with no concept of the cost in doing that service. She was a service person and had always been one.

Though still a service person, she now must

charge for a service both she and her patron/client had always thought of as free. It did not ease the psychological shock or the philosophical "about-face" to compute a library's annual budget in terms of circulation figures, reference desk statistics, or numbers of public service personnel hours. It did not help to know the ratio of taxes allotted to libraries (compared to other institutions) and the number of library card holders (compared to the number of taxed residents). Gradually the idea emerged that even if the patron did not get a bill for services as he/she left the library, one existed nonetheless. It took over two years to become somewhat comfortable with a for-fee policy, and there are still ready-reference and referrals that get done without an invoice.

Another related problem still exists. Reference librarians in traditional settings are concerned that she and other information brokers are undermining their jobs, their service, their users. Perhaps there is a small grain of truth to that, because change is always hard to adapt to immediately. There are going to be new services, changes in old services, restructuring of duties in forward-moving institutions. But the information broker does not do what a reference librarian does, but is instead a knowledgeable patron using the resources of the library to its fullest capacity. Just as a high school chemistry enthusiast studies the science magazines and the patent collection to get a better grade in school; or the business person comes in to discover a way to reduce excessive absenteeism because it is costing him money as well as productivity every day a person is not working; or a restaurant owner haunts the cookbook shelves for new recipes to serve his clients, the information broker is looking for specific useful information to help improve his situation as well as that of his client. Like the restaurateur, he passes the costs to the client.

In the few years C. D. Research, Ltd. has been in business, it has expanded slightly and, with the right business partner, will grow substantially more. There are two offices: a small sales office which is shared by several other small businesses and a computer operations center. Since most of the work is done with a client by telephone or at the clients office, an impressive office is not of any major importance. A

few part-time staff take care of various clerical, accounting, marketing, and computer data entry tasks when required. Several dozen subject specialists are on-call or on-retainer as working professionals in their specialties. Back-up qualified support staff is essential when a client asks for material which is outside his own discipline (eg. A lawyers' medical question needs to be reviewed by a medical person for any terminology glitches or errors). Client confidentiality, also, has been a strong part of the pattern of growth.

There are many other information brokers in the country. Sue Rugge of *Information on Demand* and Alice Sizer Warner, formerly of Warner-Eddison, are perhaps the best known and respected. The profession is not much more than a dozen years old and as a result is still looking for identity. Several long-established organizations have tried to incorporate the information broker into their bodies as an offshoot of a larger profession (eg., special librarians and computer scientists). At least one new professional organization has been established just for information brokers. Derryl has become part of a New England network of peers which is

trying to act as a support group for its members, and also belongs to the newly created International Association of Independent Information Professionals. Standards and definitions and even a basic yellow pages directory heading are still being debated, and debated again! Trust between new information colleagues is tenuous but improving, and introductory programs are entering the formal curriculum in some library science and computer science masters' programs.

The profession is a new frontier and, like all frontiers, the brave and idealistic, the rejects and the misfits, the raw recruits and the seasoned pros are looking for a new life, a fresh success. The profession needs time and self-evaluation to weed out the mavericks, recruit the future Sue Rugge, and educate the business community in its needs for information.

In its September issue, the Bulletin will present a comprehensive account of "Information Brokering, a Specialization of Skills," by Derryl R. Johnson.

NOTES OF A SENIOR RETREAD

by Elizabeth Schumann

In the fall of 1987, I found myself thinking seriously about some sort of meaningful volunteer work. I had been retired for over four years after fourteen years as a reference librarian at Brown, and was now living alone and in need of some satisfying activity in the outside world. Hospital work beckoned, but I wasn't sure that I had the necessary emotional stamina.

At this point I received an announcement of a joint meeting of the Friends of the Library of Brown University and the Rhode Island Medical Society. The Society had decided to discontinue its library on Francis Street and had turned the bulk of the materials over to the university. The meeting focused on the formal presentation and acceptance of the collection. It sounded like fun, and an opportunity to meet old friends from library days.

I went to the meeting and enjoyed the program, the exhibits, and chats with old

friends. My library friends spoke of the fact that gifts to libraries are never really free; there is always much labor involved in the acquisition process. Someone mentioned the enormous number of medical periodicals to be unpacked and processed. Brown had committed itself to having the journals of the state medical associations on its shelves by the end of June 1988.

Suddenly a thought flashed through my mind, and I murmured timidly, "Perhaps I could volunteer to help with the project." The head of the periodicals division responded negatively; it was too big a job for a volunteer, and moreover, someone should be paid for the work. In fact, the administration had already authorized a half-time position to begin in January and end on June 30.

Why didn't I apply for the job as soon as it was posted?

I considered the pros and cons. One "pro" was that I could contribute something to the health-care community, without the emotional strain involved in hospital volunteer work. I decided to apply.

I got the job, and have been busy ever since searching titles, collating issues, typing bindery slips and recording additions to the collection. Beginning the task was indeed daunting. During the previous summer Brown library staff had collected the items to come to Brown from the Francis Street building. It was hot, humid, and dusty work, with a deadline looming. There was no time for exhaustive checking, and some duplication with Brown holdings was inevitable.

Cartons of items were brought up College Hill. Older materials went to Special Collections at the John Hay Library; the rest was stacked on Level A of the Sciences Library. Progress was made, and the processing of the state medical association journals was completed in March. Brown now has nearly complete runs of these titles from the mid-sixties to the present, with many earlier runs on microform.

We are now plowing through the remaining cartons and are adding and filling in the gaps of such prestigious titles as the Transactions & Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine. As everyone who has worked with periodicals knows, the whims and vagaries of the editors and publishers of periodical literature are weird and wonderful. Title changes, changes in format and date of issue, location of title, if it exists, strange paginations - all can slow the processing of the gifts.

It has been an interesting five months. The work was different from that which I had done previously and, hence, I was forced to learn new techniques and procedures. I was working in a new setting, and not an integral part of a department as I had been before. On the practical side, the remuneration was not great enough to disrupt my Social Security payments.

An unexpected benefit, and perhaps the best part of the project, was my being able to work with a long-time friend in the profession, who heads the unit. She and I began library work at about the same time, after our families had grown. We discovered that each of us had, unbeknownst to

the other, dubbed herself a "middle-aged retreat." Following the analogy, I can say that I have spent the first half of 1988 as a "re-retreat," or if you prefer, a "senior retreat."

Elizabeth Schumann has held various positions in the Reference Department of the Brown University Library from 1969 to 1981. She also served as Pembroke Campus Librarian from 1981 until her retirement in 1983.

bulletin board

- The Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (GSLIS) at the University of Rhode Island proudly announces that its masters program leading to the first professional degree has been accredited by the American Library Association's Committee on Accreditation, which met at the recent ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. The GSLIS joins the rank of 62 other graduate programs in the United States and Canada which educate college graduates for careers in all aspects of the information industry including public, academic, school, corporate, and government libraries. Congratulations are in order to Liz Futas, GSLIS Director, and all who worked to make the bid for accreditation a successful one.

- An open meeting at which members of the Rhode Island library community can respond to the Peat Marwick Main & Co. study of library and information services in Rhode Island is scheduled for September 15th at the Cranston Public Library at 7:30 PM. The study is to be released soon after the Management Committee meets to discuss the final draft of the study at a meeting on August 16th.

- "Your Old Books," a new American Library Association publication, answers questions library users frequently ask about the value of their old books. The 14-panel pamphlet, written for the general public and meant to be used as a handout, describes the characteristics of rare books, give tips on getting books appraised, and includes a bibliography for further reading on collecting and evaluating books. "Your Old Books" is available in quantities of 50 pamphlets for \$20 from ALA Graphics, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Single copies are \$1

with a self-addressed stamped #10 envelope from "Your Old Books," the Association of College and Research Librarians, ALA.

- "Is Your Library Liability - Proof?" is the theme of the Summer 1988 issue of NEW JERSEY LIBRARIES, the quarterly journal of the New Jersey Library Association. This special issue is guest-edited by Fairview, New Jersey attorney Silva Barsumyan, who is also a professional librarian. It covers legal options for handling problem patrons, liability of library boards, personnel issues, and new employment legislation which affects libraries. To get a copy, send a check for three dollars, payable to NJLA, to Flora Higgins, Editor-in-Chief, NEW JERSEY LIBRARIES, Bell Communications Research, 1G 163 Red Bank, NJ 07701.

- At its annual conference on May 2-3, the Massachusetts Library Association voted a new minimum salary of \$22,000. The "effective" date has not been announced.

- The Connecticut Library Association voted its new salary minimum in April at \$23,310, effective July 1, 1989. CLA further decided not to post positions in its newsletter that offer less than the minimum.

MAKING THE BEST OF OUR LEADERS

by Peter Fuller

As reported in the June issue of the Bulletin, a major issue facing RILA officers and members is the hiring of an administrative assistant for the organization. The April Bulletin presented an article on this position as Public Information Officer. Following is a proposal that the assistant be an Executive Secretary.

Most of us would agree that the Rhode Island Library Association needs to establish itself as the voice for libraries and library users and as the authority on library issues in the state. We would also admit, however, that our organization lacks the vibrancy and effectiveness expected of a professional organization. Several causes of this malaise have been suggested: burnout, lack of leadership, lack of volunteers. Some have put forth thoughtful solutions and the best of these is a proposal to hire an EXECUTIVE SECRETARY for the Association.

RILA has been, and will continue to be, an organization which relies on the volunteer

efforts of its members. Ineffective use of volunteer time diminishes organizational effectiveness and undermines morale, hinders recruitment, and in short, creates many of the problems previously identified. To be effective, the Association must find a way to increase the number of volunteers and to use them more productively. In particular, RILA must find a way to free its leaders to be more productive. We must make the best use of the talented people elected and appointed to positions of leadership.

RILA's leadership is burdened with responsibility for the administrative details such as correspondence, bills and membership renewals. These details prevent it from directing its energies towards RILA's more important functions, such as public relations, advocacy and legislation. Concern over the Association's efforts in these areas had led to a suggestion that RILA hire a public information officer to serve as a spokesman on library issues. The spokesman for the state's libraries however, should be the president of the state's library association, and the position of RILA President should be cultivated as such. Admittedly this role is difficult, but it can be done if RILA's President can spend his or her time attending editorial board meetings rather than typing meeting agendas.

RILA's priority should be hiring a part-time support person, an EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, to attend to the numerous HOUSEKEEPING chores required by the organization. This person could handle RILA's correspondence, membership renewals, and bills, as well as maintain a record of RILA activities. This person could serve as the Association's contact person and facilitate communication among committee chairs and Executive Board members. This support person could also maintain the Association's calendar. All of these routine and necessary tasks must be carried out in order for RILA to function. The question is: do we assign RILA's leaders the task or retain the services of a secretary? Clearly, the latter would be a wiser, more cost-effective choice.

Peter Fuller is Coordinator of the Northern Region's Interrelated Library System.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE PLA CONFERENCE

by Patrick W. Wood

I felt fortunate to be among the group of Rhode Island librarians who were able to attend "Public Libraries: Bridges to the 21st Century", the Public Library Association's Third National Conference which took place at the David Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA from April 17-30, 1988. As anyone who has attended such affairs knows, one cannot hope to attend every meeting that takes place. And time, space, and my memory do not allow me to relate everything that I learned at this conference. But it is important that those who get to attend share some of their experiences. I should also point out that tapes of many of the programs are available from PLA for \$10 each.

The tone of the convention was set by Pulitzer prize winning author and historian, Barbara Tuchman, in her keynote address at the opening session, in which she spoke about the decline of moral authority. She explained, for example, that our religious leaders no longer seem to know what is right or wrong, that our business leaders cheat, that the United Nations has become politicized, and that a great number of books are sold in which children tell what jerks their parents are. She further defined her argument by using the Latin word *gravitas*, which means "honesty of purpose," saying that in this "Age of Fraudulence" society seems to lack this quality. She went on to say that "Critics (and I suppose she was including librarians in that group) must know the difference between authenticity and hogwash." For public librarians this of course brings up the old question of whether we should "give 'em what they want." Tuchman argued against this philosophy saying that the American public consumes so much blood and guts--trash, that it no longer knows how to deal with the everyday pleasures in life.

Perhaps some of the better programming at this conference were the "Table Talks," at which facilitators presented broad topics for discussion by asking those around sometimes rather large tables how they deal with certain situations in their libraries. Among the more interesting questions raised at such groups were: How do you manage fees for online reference services? Do you include R or X rated films in your collection of video tapes? How can librarians ensure that financial support from Friends groups is used to enhance library services rather than be used to support

basic services? Not only are these small, rather informal programs good in themselves, but they also provide a very easy way to continue discussion by telling someone that you enjoyed what they had to say after the meeting. These kinds of informal discussions are often some of the more productive activities that take place at such affairs and are also a good way to make new friends or form new committees.

Another very important part of this or any library association convention is the exhibits. The exhibit that every Rhode Island librarian was interested in was that of CLSI, since that company was demonstrating their latest edition of CD-CAT using records from the CLAN database. A number of other vendors or CD ROM catalogs presented exhibits which provided a good opportunity for comparison.

Mr. Rogers, creator and host of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood addressed a luncheon audience of about eight hundred public librarians on Thursday, April 28. His comments regarding his experience with a very handicapped young man brought tears to the eyes of many as he demonstrated through the use of a video tape, how thankful this boy was to be able to get around in a motorized wheel chair. He also told a good story about the librarian he had known as a youth, who had left him a scarab ring in her will. Upon examining the ring he found a hieroglyphic inscription. The librarian told him that the best Egyptologist worked downtown at Brooks Brothers, a clothing store. He got his hieroglyphics translated over a pile of shirts.

One of the most pleasant surprises of the conference was hearing Robert Croneberger, The Director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, speak at a workshop on *Information and Referral services*. Although he did speak about that topic, he spoke more broadly about the state of access to information. He is appalled that, "...information has become important... (thus)...it has become a commodity...which is now regulated by the Federal Government and corporations." Thus he fears that only the information what will sell, rather than the information that people need, is made available. He finds it rather unfair and ironic that tax money is used to create government databases which are then sold to corporations, which well the information

to libraries, which then very often sell the information to the taxpayer. More closely related to his topic of I&R was his point that many corporations are now including I&R services as a part of their employee benefit programs. One such program in Pittsburgh contracts with a firm in Atlanta which then calls the local I&R service in Pittsburgh to get information. Croneberger sees a major problem for I&R services with the promulgation of case management by these corporate types of services as opposed to the practice of confidentiality practiced by public libraries. He is concerned that information professionals don't become BIG BROTHER. His address was followed by a number of workshops geared to specific hardware for setting up computerized I&R files, one of which uses the CLSI system.

It was evident throughout the conference that what Ms. Tuchman had said did effect what others had to say and that we as librarians should think about these issues as we make decisions affecting the lives of the people we serve. Let's be sure that the "Bridges to the 21st Century" aren't all toll bridges.

Patrick W. Wood is Director of the Foster Public Library.

people

JACQUELINE ALEXANDER is now Research Assistant Librarian at the International Center for Marine Resource Development at the University of Rhode Island.

KATHY ELLEN BULLARD, former Director of the East Bridgewater (MA) Public Library, has been appointed Director of the Woonsocket Harris Public Library.

PAUL CAMPBELL, Director of the R.I. Historical Society Library has resigned and MADELEINE TELFEYAN is now Acting Director.

DOROTHY FRECHETTE is now Deputy Director of the Department of State Library Services.

GLORIA PROVOST has been appointed a Children's Librarian at Pawtucket Public Library.

DONNA ROBERTS, former librarian at Park View Junior High School in Cranston, is now

Young Adult Librarian for the East Providence Public Library.

DALE THOMPSON recently was appointed Director of the Providence Public Library (PPL). She had been Assistant Director at PPL since 1980 and was chosen from a list of over seventy applicants.

JULIA TRYON has been appointed to a Reference Librarian position at Providence College (PC). She comes to PC from the College of New Rochelle (NY) where she also was a member of the reference staff.

MARY ZAMMARELLI has left her position as Head of the Shared Resources office at Providence Public Library to become Librarian at St. Joseph's Hospital.

KATHLEEN METRICK, KEN SVENGALIS, BETTY BISHOP, FAY ZIPKOWITZ, and MARGARET KEEFE are joining RILA Member-at-Large ANNE CRAWFORD in preparing the Rhode Island Salary Survey.

MARCIA DiGREGORIO, formerly Head of the Business-Industry-Science Department of the PPL, is now Collection Development Librarian. Marcia returned to the PPL on June 1, after an extensive recuperation from a broken leg.

Recent arrivals at the Providence Public Library are: JENNIFER BLOCK, Adult Services Librarian at the Knight Memorial Library, STEVEN LAFER, Children's Specialist at the Wanskuck Branch and JOHN SEAY, Reference Librarian at the Central Library.

JANET LEVESQUE, NELA Councilor, is a candidate for Director of NELA.

KATHRYN RYAN attended a conference in Hungary on "Development of Information Services in Science and Technology" on July 4-8. Kathy is Circulation supervisor at Salve Regina College.

LIZ FUTAS will be joining John Berry, of the Library Journal, in a panel on "Fee vs. Free" at NELA's Annual Conference, to be held September 24-26 at the Springfield, Massachusetts, Sheraton-Tara.

MICHELE MALS, formerly Director of Central Falls Free Library, is the new Reader Services' Librarian at RISD.

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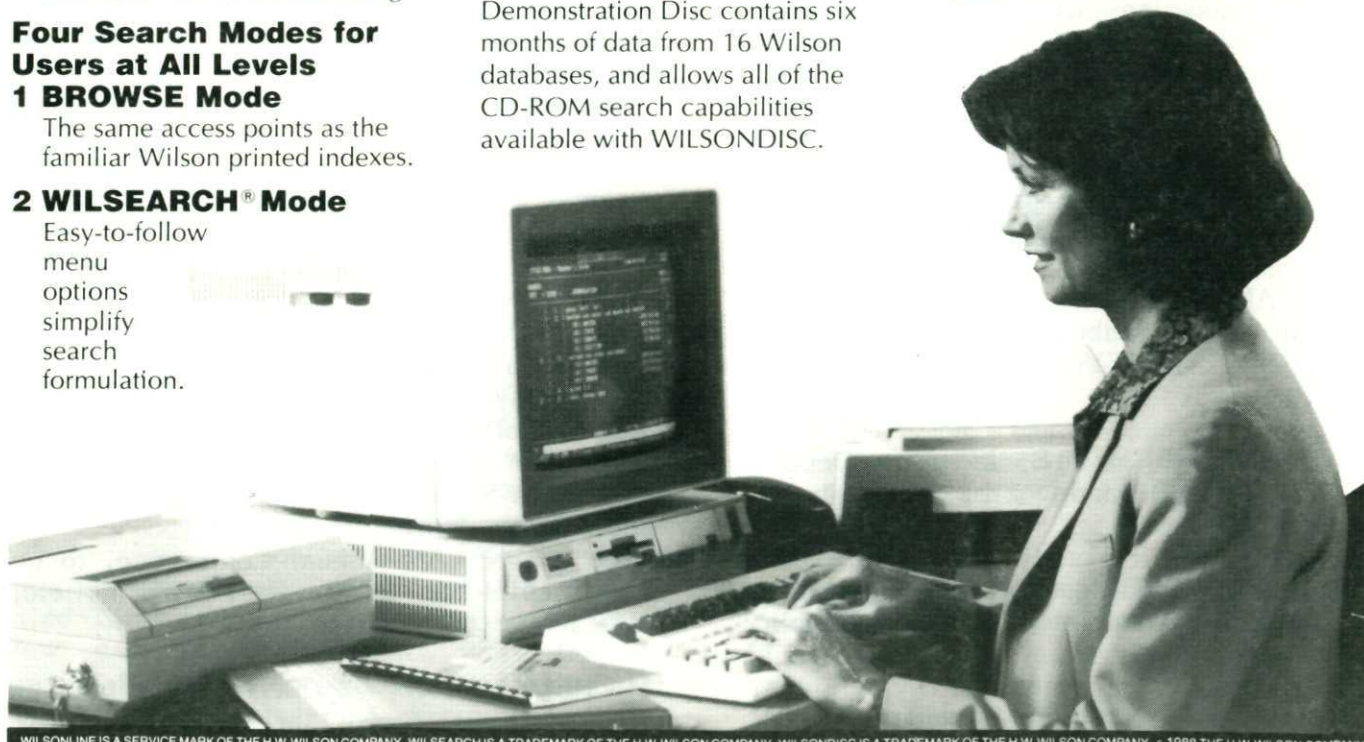
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CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT



Carol K. DiPrete

Assistant Dean for Academic Services and Library
Roger Williams College

EDUCATION: M.L.S. - University of Maryland. M.S. - Oklahoma State University. BA - Oklahoma State University.

EXPERIENCE: 1983 - present - Assistant Dean, Roger Williams College. 1982-83 - Information Services Librarian, Cranston Public Library. 1976-79 - Serials/Reference Librarian, Community College of R.I. 1975-76 - Librarian, Cranston High School East.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: ALA, ACRL, LAMA, ACRL-NE, COLA, NELA, RILA

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE FOR WHICH YOU ARE A CANDIDATE, AND WHAT SKILLS WOULD YOU BRING TO IT?

The Vice President/President Elect has responsibility for directing and overseeing the welfare and health of our state professional organizations. Since I have been on the Executive Board of RILA for five years as the ALA Councilor, I have a history of seeing how the Board functions, its strengths and its weaknesses.

WHAT PARTICULAR AREAS OF CONCERN WOULD YOU REPRESENT AS A MEMBER OF THE RILA EXECUTIVE BOARD?

The major concern I have at present with RILA is the lack of involvement by members. People are unwilling or unable to serve on committees. To have a strong organization there needs to be a commitment by the 500 members to participate more fully in the functioning of the organization.



Patricia Elaine Jensen

Assistant to the Director for Regional Studies and
Assistant Professor, GSLIS, URI

EDUCATION: Ph.D. in Instructional Media, University of Connecticut; M.S. in Library Science, Southern Connecticut State College; M.Ed. in Elementary Education and Administration, University of New Hampshire; B.A. in Psychology and Sociology, Colby College.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: Member, RILA 1979 to present. Member, Rhode Island Educational Media Association, New England Library Association, New England Educational Media Association, American Association of School Librarians, and American Library Association.

STATEMENT: If elected I would help lead the Rhode Island Library Association in the following manner: greater participation by the membership in support of the Executive Board's responsibilities and in the ongoing efforts of the Association; increased visibility and leadership with our constituents and decision-makers to further the goal of excellent library service for all library patrons in Rhode Island; and continued focus on cooperative efforts to make informed choices on the issues and challenges of librarianship for today and tomorrow. I would appreciate the opportunity and honor to serve.

CANDIDATES FOR ALA COUNCILOR



Fay Zipkowitz
Associate Professor
URI/GSLIS

EDUCATION: BA Long Island University 1958. MSLS Western Reserve University 1959. MA University of Massachusetts 1970. DA Simmons College 1977.

EXPERIENCE: Cleveland Public Library 1959-63; The Temple (Cleveland, Ohio) 1963-66; University of Massachusetts 1966-77; Worcester Area Cooperating Libraries 1977-81; Rhode Island DSLS Director 1981-87; URI/GSLIS 1987-

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: ALA; ACRL; LRTS; ASCLA; PLA; Massachusetts Library Association; RILA; American Society for Public Administration; NELA.

IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE: ALA Council is the policy-making body of the membership and as such is very influential in the directions ALA takes. My experience as a long time active member in ALA, and extensive committee work combined with my experience as a state official, have given me the background to work through the complicated processes and procedures by which the Council operates. I also feel that I have good professional experience, prespective and communication skills to represent effectively the concerns of the Rhode Island library community.

AREAS OF CONCERN: My major concern is to keep ALA responsive to the needs and priorities of the membership; to raise the visibility of libraries and library services; and to assure quality program and workshop experiences for the members in areas of their interests. I am interested in ALA's role in gathering greater public support and funding for libraries, and in preserving the values and principles of librarianship.



Howard Boksenbaum
Supervisor of Automation Services
DSLS

EDUCATION: AB Washington University; MLS University of Pittsburgh

EXPERIENCE: Japanese Librarian, East Asian Library, Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh. System Coordinator, Green County Library System, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. Coordinator, Island Interrelated Library System.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: RILA; RIEMA; NELA; ALA

IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE: ALA is our national voice, making the nation aware of the importance, value, and needs of libraries and librarians. It is our professional conscience, and our major forum for professional development, both as individuals and as a profession at large. Whether or not we pay attention to the doings of ALA, its activities shape a significant part of our library lives. ALA Councilor is the person who makes Rhode Island and RILA a part of the national association, bring RI viewpoint(s) to ALA, and keeping RILA and Rhode Island library people up to date on ALA matters. The most important skill I bring to the job is the ability to communicate and to foster communication. I am also well acquainted with RI libraries and library people. My role as coordinator has taken me into most library nooks and crannies in our state. My experience with RILA as vice-president, president, past president, and as member of several committees has given me a broad view of the splendors and concerns of libraries in our state. As a member of SACOL and of the RI Library Study Management Committee, I have had the privilege of seeing the trends in library development that RI is experiencing, and can help bring many RI voices to bear upon those trends. These skills and experiences put me in a good position to represent RI to ALA and ALA to RI.

AREAS OF CONCERN: The Executive Board's prime task over the next few years will be to interpret the results of the RI Library Study. This includes bringing the membership to consensus around a plan for action in response to the study, translating that plan into action, and acting to ensure that those actions are effective and long lasting. The Executive Board, as RILA's nerve center also has a role in promoting the enthusiasm of library people for libraries, calling membership attention to relevant local issues, promoting the development of the profession and our institutions in Rhode Island, making the Rhode Island Public conscious of the wonders of libraryland.

CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY



Ruth E. Corkill
Director
Barrington Public Library

EDUCATION: MLS, University of Maryland; B.A., George Washington University.

EXPERIENCE: Director, Barrington Public Library, 1981 to present; Coordinator of Adult Services, Pawtucket Public Library, 1974-81 (plus Acting Assistant Director, 1976-77); Acquisitions Librarian, TRACOR, 1970-72; Librarian, Logetronics Inc., 1966-70; Assistant Librarian, PRC Systems Sciences Co., 1965-66; Circulation Supervisor, Rockefeller Library (Brown) 1960-65.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: Member RILA, CLAN Finance and Nominating Committees; RILA Treasurer 1977-79, RILA Membership Chair 1976-77; various ad hoc committee participation.

IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE: Besides recording the business and actions of the Board and clerical-related responsibilities, this Officer interacts with all Board members and committees and participates in the decisions which affect the viability and effectiveness of the organization and the library community as a whole.

AREAS OF CONCERN: I would attempt to represent all membership concerns of substance addressed by the Board. Of particular concern will be a balanced and cooperative approach to the galloping advancement of technology appropriate for libraries, continued fostering of networking, and active participation of the organization in the Rhode Island Library Study's recommendations through promotion of those worthy of support.



Deborah O. Lynden
Head, Cataloging
Providence Public Library

EDUCATION: B.A. in History, Smith College; M.A. in Library Science, University of Minnesota.

EXPERIENCE: Head, Cataloging, Providence Public Library; Catalog Librarian, Providence Public Library; Volunteer, Barrington, R.I. Public School Libraries; Reference Librarian, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford CA; Head, Belmont Library, San Mateo County Library System, San Mateo, CA; Head, Marketing Research Library, Kaiser Aluminum, Oakland, CA; Reference/Catalog Librarian, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, NM.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: RILA; ALA; Friends of the Barrington Public Library; Friends of the Brown University Libraries; CLAN Data Base Management Committee; Head, Personnel Committee, Providence Public Library.

IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE: The Secretary of any organization attends all meetings of the organization and maintains accurate and up-to-date records of these meetings for immediate as well as future reference. I consider myself a well-organized, accurate and conscientious individual and would do my very best to record and report on RILA's activities to its membership.

AREAS OF CONCERN: During the past twenty years, I have worked in public, special, academic and school libraries and would be responsive to the concerns of librarians in all types of libraries. Cooperative efforts in all areas, for example CLAN and CRIARL, should be continued and strengthened. As a member of the RILA Executive Board, I would welcome the opportunity to represent the concerns of the membership and would strive to continue the high standards of leadership which previous RILA Board members have set as representatives of RILA.

CANDIDATES FOR TREASURER



Judith H. Bell

Director
Jamestown Philomenian Library

EDUCATION: B.A., Southern Illinois University. M.L.S., University of Rhode Island.

EXPERIENCE: Technical Services/Reference Librarian - South Kingstown Public Library 1973-1986. Director, Jamestown Philomenian Library 1986-

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: RILA, NELA, ALA, PLA.

IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE: All the elected offices are important because of the decision making power of the Executive Board. The RILA leadership and members will face challenges presented by "Son of Humphry." I offer my problem-solving skills to you. Also, I have sharpened my budgeting and bill paying skills with the use of Appleworks.

AREAS OF CONCERN: I would represent the concerns of the small public library. I have an interest in personnel development, management and motivation, professionalism and intellectual freedom.



Tanya Trinkaus

Bibliographic Control Librarian
Roger William College Library

EDUCATION: MLS - University of Rhode Island - 1982. BA - University of Rhode Island/University of Wisconsin/Maryland Institute College of Art.

EXPERIENCE: Bibliographic Control Librarian, RWC - 9/85 to present. Technical Services Librarian, Rhode Island Historical Society - 9/84-9/85. Head of Acquisitions and Cataloging, West Warwick Public Library - 5/82-8/84.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: RILA - 1979 to present. NELA - 1984 to present. ALA - 1985 to present. ARLIS/NA (Art Libraries Society/North America) - 1978 to present. ARLIS/NE (Art Libraries Society/New England) - 1978 to present.

IMPORTANCE OF OFFICE: The office of Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee is an important liaison position between the membership and the Executive Board. Not only must all incoming funds be carefully recorded, but these same funds must be disbursed responsibly and equitably to all committees to support the goals of RILA as directed by the approved budget. I feel I am well qualified for this position since I have chaired a RILA committee in the past (PR), have been treasurer of my local Friends group, have a good background in mathematics (including Calculus), am organized and possess a logical mind, as my cataloging experience attests.

AREAS OF CONCERN: My major goal as a member of the RILA Executive Board would be to involve more RILA members in their professional organization. Being involved enables a librarian (an other library staff) to work with librarians outside of his/her immediate environment and helps to develop a better sense of one's own worth as a professional (or paraprofessional) in his/her own library or community. This involvement also facilitates individual and organizational growth through closer communication and the sharing of ideas and developments in the field. Another important goal would be to make all RILA members more aware of how RILA works, what it does and can do for them, all through public relations and the RILA Bulletin. As Treasurer, I can help guide the Executive Board to use funds wisely and efficiently toward these goals.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE



John B. Etchingham, Jr.
Head, Reference
University Library, URI

EDUCATION: BA 1977, MLS 1980, University of Rhode Island

EXPERIENCE: Career U.S. Navy 1949-1973. Reference Service 1979-

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: ALA, RILA.

IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE: Advocacy. Communication and management skills developed over a thirty-five year span.

AREAS OF CONCERN: I will vigorously pursue and support those objectives which enhance library service including funding and especially salaries.



Eileen Socha
Director
George Hail Library, Warren

EDUCATION: B.S. Elementary Education, St. Francis College, Biddeford, Maine. MLS University of Rhode Island.

EXPERIENCE: 1977-1979 Reference Librarian, Pompano Beach City Library, Florida. 1979-1980 Reference/Reader's Advisor, Providence Public Library. 1980-present Director, George Hail Library, Warren.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: RILA: Public Relations Committee 1981-1982; Trustee Committee chair 1985. Member of: ALA; NELA; DSLS Long Range Plan Committee; RHILINET Interlibrary Loan Committee.

IMPORTANCE OF OFFICE: Member-at-large is an important position as it allows the opportunity to contribute thoughts and ideas after listening to all points of view. It is not a position to spearhead action but an office that keeps the action flowing in a positive and forward manner. As a candidate for this office I see myself guiding the association with continuing education programs resulting in communication with librarians, trustees and legislators.

AREAS OF CONCERN: As a member of the RILA Executive Board, I see the role of the librarian in our society as we head for the year 2000, as an important area of concern. In a time of accelerated change, with automation a reality for even small libraries, the Association must be an avenue to prepare and aid the membership for technological changes. Resource sharing and co-operative use of libraries will be an important result. I think the role of the librarian in the future is an issue to be addressed by the Executive Board.

CANDIDATES FOR NELA COUNCILOR



Charlotte Schoonover

Head of Branch - Kingston Free Library
(South Kingstown Public Library)

EDUCATION: B.S., Textiles and Clothing, University of Rhode Island, 1963.
M.L.S. University of Rhode Island, 1980.

EDUCATION: Head of Branch, Kingston Free Library, 1980 to the present.
Assistant Librarian and Children's Librarian, Langworthy Public Library, Hope Valley, Rhode Island, 1977-1980.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: RILA, NELA, ALA. Membership Committee, RILA, 1980-1986 (Chairperson, 1984-86). Publications Committee, RILA, 1987-present.

IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE: NELA exists as the Rhode Island librarian's link to what is currently happening in our field in our region. With my networking and communications skills and my experience as a committee person, I would have the opportunity as the NELA councilor to accomplish the following: 1) share news of the RI library scene, 2) report news from the NELA states to the RILA membership, 3) encourage RILA members to participate on the regional level, and 4) foster greater cooperation and coordination among the region's libraries at various levels. We don't operate in a vacuum; what is happening here is reflected elsewhere. There is much to gain by involvement in our regional library organizations.

AREAS OF CONCERN: As we approach the 1990's, our profession is facing a critical shortage of librarians on the local, regional, and national scene. It's time for RILA to take a leadership position in providing support for those already working and dedicated to remaining in the field, but also to play a vital role in the recruitment of future librarians. Essential to reaching that goal would be for RILA to study and act on certain key areas of concern such as salaries, career advancement, continuing education, and professional image. RILA has a chance now to make a difference in the future of its members.



Helen Mochetti

Head, Community Services
Westerly Public Library

EDUCATION: BA, University of Connecticut. M.L.S. 1969, University of Rhode Island.

EXPERIENCE: Nineteen years in public and technical services at Westerly Public Library including Head of Technical Services, Head of Reference, Head of Community Services, manager special collections, volunteer co-ordinator and outreach librarian.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: Recently re-joined RILA and NELA. Have previously served on RILA committees. Member Library Public Relations Council.

IMPORTANCE OF OFFICE: NELA Councilor is the official communications link between RILA and NELA, and by extension, between NELA and individual librarians. This line of communication should offer the perspective of larger, regional issues to local librarians and advise NELA, through RILA, of the concerns and issues affecting librarians who deal directly with the public on this local level. My varied public services background can be most useful in maintaining and strengthening this communications link.

AREAS OF CONCERN: In my present position as Community Services Librarian and through years of Reference service, I have become very much aware of the positive impact of continuing library education on library staff members' interaction with the public. I would encourage RILA in its efforts to provide such training through conferences, meetings and seminars. Also, I would like to increase awareness among librarians of these opportunities and the personal and professional benefits of taking advantage of them.

AN UPDATED HISTORY OF THE STATE DATABASE PROJECT

In March 1987, Bruce Daniels, then Acting Director of DSLS requested the formation of a Database Task Force. He requested that the RHILINET Committee "would examine the alternative methods and technologies for access to statewide holdings information for monographs, serials, and non-print materials, determining the feasibility of each method and estimating their respective costs. The Task Force should consider ways to include those libraries, such as small public libraries, institutional libraries, school and special libraries, whose holdings are not currently available in any machine-readable form. Machine-readable databases already in existence should be examined to determine possibilities for access by other libraries, and whether the holdings of other libraries can or should be added to an existing database."

The committee was first convened by Howard Boksenbaum, then Coordinator of the Island Inter-related Library System, and met four times thereafter. Its report was submitted to DSLS in December of 1987.

At its April 15th meeting the RHILINET Committee received a reply from the Department of State Library Services accepting its recommendations for creation of a statewide database. The committee then agreed to ask the Statewide Database Task Force to work with DSLS to complete planning for the statewide database by December of 1988 so that the implementation can begin in January of 1989.

The following recommendations, implementation steps, and interim steps are given in the report:

Recommendations

A. Statewide Database Goals

DSLS should spearhead the creation and maintenance of a CD ROM based statewide database of library holdings in MARC record format with the widest possible inclusiveness and the widest possible accessibility.

Grant monies and LCSA Title III funds should be solicited and used for startup costs, including conversion of records, hardware, mastering of disks, and encouragement of library participation.

Ongoing state funding should be sought to maintain the database, beginning with the establishment of RHILINET in law as part of the state grant-in-aid program of Chapter 29 of General Laws of Rhode Island.

DSLS should actively seek inclusion of holdings records for the database in the following order:

- 1.all existing MARC format records in machine-readable form
- 2.other machine-readable records
- 3.remaining records of Special Research Centers
- 4.remaining records of public and institutional library holdings
- 5.remaining records of holdings in school library collections
- 6.all other records of holdings in libraries that are members of Interrelated Library Systems

DSLS should ensure access to the database in the following order of priority:

- 1.the State Library (and the legislature)
- 2.all libraries with holdings records in the database
- 3.remaining public libraries
- 4.remaining Special Research Centers
- 5.remaining academic libraries
- 6.others, including the general public

B. Implementation Steps:

The Database Task Force should continue to advise DSLS in planning strategies and logistics on the implementation of these recommendations.

DSLS should provide technical, financial, and logistical assistance to libraries and groups of libraries seeking to enter or access the database in the following areas:

- conversion from paper to MARC format machine-readable form: DSLS should make available a system such as Bibliofile to travel to libraries in need to facilitate conversion
- conversion of non-MARC to MARC records
- procurement of OCLC tapes
- affiliate (or other partial) memberships in CLSI based networks
- conversion of CRIARL serial holdings records

DSLS should take whatever steps it can to ensure that the Rhode Island Department of Education secure funding for and encourage the participation of school libraries in the database.

C. Interim Steps

Recommendation II.B of the Telecommunications Report should be implemented in so far as it does not conflict with or adversely affect the primary goal of creating a statewide database of library holdings in MARC format on CD ROM. That recommendation reads:

"We recommend that the DSLS work toward having every online bibliographic system in the state provide at least one dial-up port for inquiry access in order to make up-to-date holdings information available to the widest possible audience."

with the following caveats:

- 1.each system should provide at least two dial-up ports to ensure two way communication
- 2."bibliographic systems" shall be taken to include the existing systems at Bryant College, Brown University, the Naval War College, the systems of HELIN and CLAN, and any other analogous system established in Rhode Island in the future.

Information on the Statewide Database project is based on the final report by Howard Boksenbaum and his committee, and the DSLS Newsletter. We are grateful to Howard and to Frank Iacono, Editor of the Newsletter and a member of the Publications Committee.

jobline

The Rhode Island Library Association has established a minimum recommended salary of \$20,000 for a full-time beginning librarian in 1988.

LIBRARIAN/ARCHIVIST: If you are an inquisitive individual who has a sense of what people's needs are, this is the organization for you. Fortune 100 manufacturing company in Rhode Island area seeks individual to provide an information service for the research and development staff, as well as the marketing department. Excellent benefits and advancement opportunities. Please call 273-5511. Management Search of Rhode Island, Inc., 1 State Street, Providence, RI, 02908. Attention: Christine Miller. (Fee paid.)

CHIEF, LIBRARY PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION: Unclassified - Grade 0826A \$27,164 - \$28,125 - \$29,136 - \$30,668. General statement of duties: under the supervision of the Deputy Director, performs responsible professional and administrative work in planning, implementing and managing a comprehensive program of library planning and development services of the Department. Distinguishing features of work: work involves planning, developing, coordinating and administering consultant and information services for the staffs and governing bodies of various types of libraries. It includes the development and management of staff to which is delegated the responsibility for providing specialized consultant and information services. The position requires the exercise of considerable professional skill, initiative and independent judgment and is done with a minimum of supervision. Effectiveness is evaluated through reports, conferences and observation of the development of the program and service. Required knowledge, skills and abilities: thorough knowledge of the principles, practices, and techniques of library service, automation and administration; ability to plan, organize and execute programs; ability to plan and direct the work of others effectively and to maintain good working relationships with other employees and the public. Experience and training: masters degree in library science from an accredited graduate library school; considerable experience in providing public library and information services or state library agency services; experience with automation; experience in administering or

supervising public library services or state library agency services. Applications due August 15, 1988. Send to: Department of State Library Services, 95 Davis Street, Providence, RI 02908-5099. AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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

calendar

SEPTEMBER 8: International Literacy Day

SEPTEMBER 15: Open meeting on the "Study of Library & Information Services in Rhode Island," Cranston Public Library, 7:30 PM.

SEPTEMBER 24-OCTOBER 1: Banned Books Week

OCTOBER 23-25: New England Library Association Annual Conference, Sturbridge, Massachusetts.



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editor's notebook

Summer is the season that we turn to books. The New York Times Book Review publishes its "best of the year" selections, and critics appear on the Today Show suggesting "good reads." It's a rare person who, on the way to the beach or the boat or a friend's summer house for the weekend, doesn't tuck a book into his suitcase. For myself, summer just isn't summer until I've spent one lazy afternoon on a lounge chair, taking in the sun and a good book.

With the reading season in full swing, and because we, as librarians, like to think of ourselves as "book people," I asked a dozen of my colleagues, including the Bulletin's staff, to share their list of "five favorite books" with all of us. The assignment turned out to be more interesting than I'd anticipated.

First, we all found it far easier to produce a list of ten or more than just five. Second, we all discovered that books tend to represent stages in our lives. Perhaps a book one reads during a crisis in one's life came to have added meaning beyond the printed page. One tends to identify with certain characters whom one emulates or whose experience duplicates one's own. (I'm sure Little Women meant everything to me when I was eight as I, too, am one of four daughters.) And, as to whether there is a "male" and "female" list, depending on the reader, I leave an open question!

When asked for their lists, some of my colleagues answered immediately, while others asked for time to mull the list over. In any event, here are their selections:

John Bucci, William Hall Librarian/Chief of Branch Services, Cranston Public Library

A Distant Mirror, Barbara Tuchman
Kon-Tiki, Thor Heyerdahl
Caine Mutiny, Herman Wouk
Dr. Rat, William Kotzwinkle
Sombrero Fall-Out, Richard Brautigan

Charlotte Schoonover, Librarian
Kingston Free Library

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
The Country of the Pointed Firs, Sara Orne Jewett
The Nine Tailors, Dorothy Sayers
The Color Purple, Alice Walker
Charlotte's Web, EB White

Stephen Thompson, Reference Librarian
Rockefeller Library, Brown University

The Floating Opera, John Barth
Second Skin, John Hawkes
Edwin Mullhouse: the Life and Death of an American Writer, 1934-1954, J. Cartwright, S. Millhouser
Waterland, Graham Swift
A Confederacy of Dunces, John Kennedy Toole

Rita Warnock, Broadsides [Librarian]
John Hay Library

The Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway
Royal Highness (Königliche Hoheit), Thomas Mann
Humoristischer Hausschatz, Wilhelm Busch
Satyricon, Petronius
Flight of Cranes, Christine Bruckner

Marcia DiGregorio, Collection Development Librarian, Providence Public Library

Don Quixote, Cervantes
Gift from the Sea, Anne Morrow Lindbergh
Diary of Anne Frank, Anne Frank
Gone with the Wind, Margaret Mitchell
From Here to Eternity, James Jones
(Marcia was also one of several who chose Little Women as a "sixth".)

Linda Pryhoda, Head Adult Services
Cranston Public Library

The World According to Garp, John Irving
The Life and Loves of a She Devil, Fay Weldon
Binstead's Safari, Rachel Ingalls
Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck
The Good Earth, Pearl Buck

Linda Walton, Isaac Ray Library
Butler Hospital

Velveteen Rabbit, Margery Williams
Little Women, Louisa May Alcott
The Spy Who Came in from the Cold, John LaCarre
The Woman's Room, Marilyn French
The Hobbit, J.R.R. Tolkien

Frank Iacono, Supervisor of Reference &
Information Service, DSLS

Catch-22, Joseph Heller
Lonesome Dove, Larry McMurtry
The Good War, Studs Terkel
Stranger in a Strange Land, Robert Heinlein
To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

Peter Bennett, Chief, Technical Services
Providence Public Library

A Dance to the Music of Time, Anthony Powell
Sword of Honor, Evelyn Waugh
The Nine Tailors, Dorothy Sayers
The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt, Edward Morris
Mr. Rumford's Hounds, R. S. Surtees

Melody Lloyd Allen, Supervisor of Young Readers'
Services, DSLS

Winnie the Pooh, A. A. Milne
Gift from the Sea, Anne Morrow Lingbergh
Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
Charlotte's Web, EB White
Wind in the Willows, Kenneth Grady

Beth Johnson, Information Services Librarian
Cranston Public Library

Baby Island, Carol Ryrrie Brink
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, Laura Numeroff
Madeline, Ludwig Bemelmans
Little Women, Louisa May Alcott
Babar, Laurent de Brunhoff

Tanya Trinkaus, Bibliographic Control Librarian
Roger Williams College Library

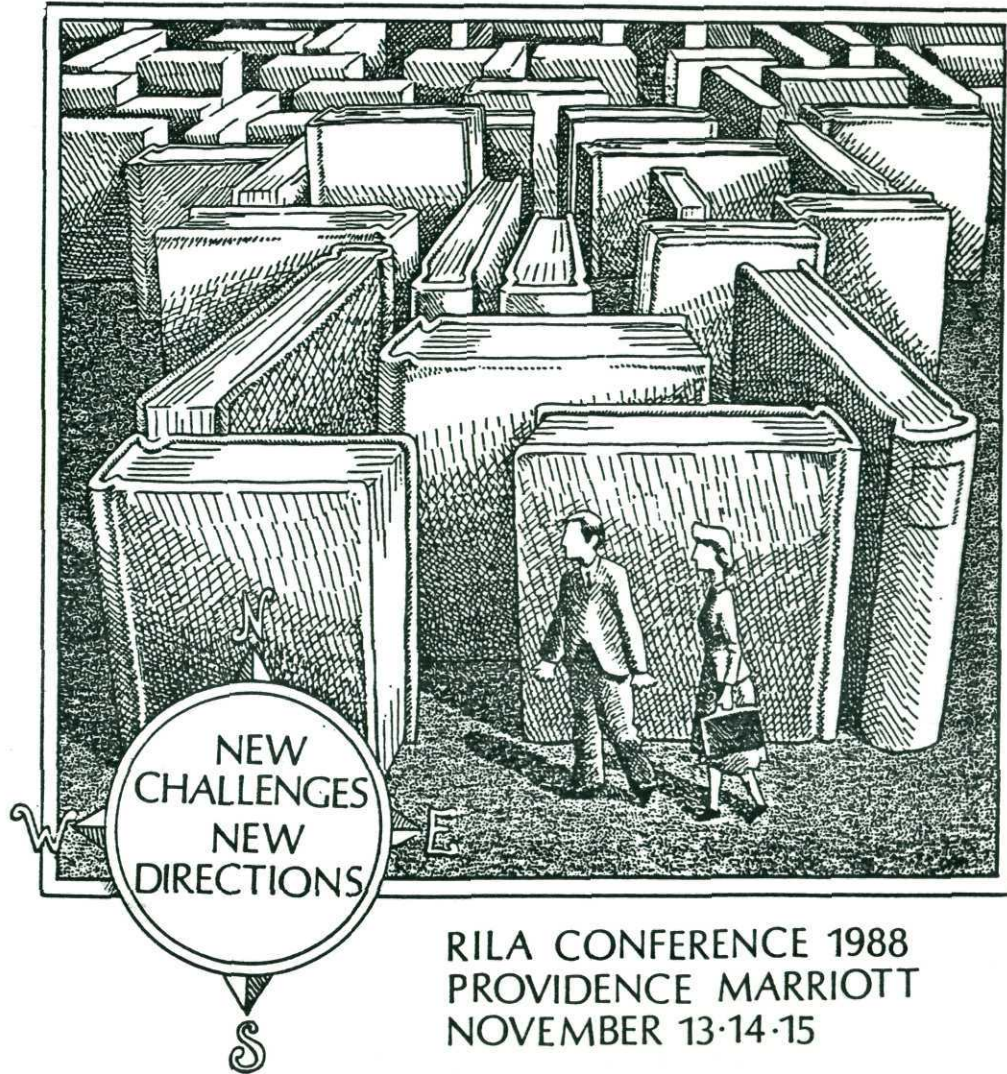
The Secret Garden, Frances Hodgson Burnett
Cry the Beloved Country, Alan Bennett
For Whom the Bell Tolls, Ernest Hemingway
Kingsblood Royal, Sinclair Lewis
Clan of the Cave Bear, Jean Auel

I am grateful to my colleagues for sharing their lists with us, and I apologize to the several who gave me "six" rather than "five." It is extremely difficult to give only five, and that reflects in all of us, a true love of books and of reading. For the record, I choose:

Moby Dick, Herman Melville
The Jewel in the Crown, Paul Scott
Middlemarch, George Eliot
The Immense Journey, Loren Eiseley
A Taste for Death, P. D. James

The National Endowment for the Humanities has published a list of "Summertime Favorites". It lists books for children and young people by grade. It's a marvelous list, and brings back memories of Huck Finn, Anna Karenina, and Holden Caulfield, and, and.... It also shares some wonderful quotations on books and reading, the simplest of which is Thomas Jefferson's "I cannot live without books."





RILA CONFERENCE 1988
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