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Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin

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APRIL 1990

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS WON'T BITE YOU by Deborah Mongeau

Mention government publications to many librarians, and you're likely to get a glazed look in return. Government publications are perceived as dull, boring, and so difficult to obtain that it's not worth the effort to include them in the collection. Nothing could be further from the truth. While government publications may not be as popular as the latest Danielle Steel novel, nevertheless they are an inexpensive source of information on a wide variety of topics. U.S. government publications run the spectrum from popular pamphlets for the layman to statistical compendiums to posters to curriculum guides to lavish "coffee table" books. Topics include everything from ants to zoology and would enhance the reference and non-fiction collection of even the smallest library. Since most of these publications are sold at low cost or are available for free, any library that needs to stretch its budget dollar would be foolish to pass up this gold mine.

Because the government publishes so much (over 20,000 titles per year), the problem is not so much how to dig up government publications but how to pick out the nuggets of gold from the rest. There are reviewing sources available to most librarians that include government publications so that a choice can be made on what to obtain. These include Library Journal, Wilson Library Bulletin, School Library Media Quarterly, Choice and Booklist. The author of the Booklist column, LeRoy C. Schwarzkopf, has also

written several books listing government publications suitable for all library collections.¹ If the budget does not allow purchase of these books, they can be obtained through interlibrary loan and scanned for publications to fill in weak areas of the collection as the arrangement is by subject. Occasionally an article will appear in the library literature that will give a good review of some outstanding government publications.²

The government also publishes its own sources for new releases. The Government Printing Office, which publishes the majority of the non-technical government publications, issues U.S. Government Books and New Books.³ U.S. Government Books looks like any other publisher's catalog. It describes and illustrates the popular government publications currently in stock. New releases are highlighted in their own section. New books on the other hand, is merely a listing with no description of all new releases. Price List #36, a publication with an unusual title, is a catalog of government periodicals available by subscription.⁴ Government periodicals range in scope from the Department of State Bulletin to Food News for Consumers.

While the Government Printing Office publishes the lion's share of government publications, other agencies also have extensive publishing programs. The General

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Services Administration issues its Consumer Information Catalog four times a year.⁵ This pamphlet lists several hundred low cost and free books and pamphlets on subjects such as health, autos, children, and small business. Other agencies that have their own publication's programs include NASA, U.S. Geological Survey, Smithsonian Institution, and Library of Congress.⁶

Many librarians balk at ordering government publications because it seems to take so long to receive them. Actually the government's track record is no better or worse than the trade publishers. However, there are a few ways to shorten the waiting time. The Government Printing Office offers a deposit account service for easier payment.⁷ Once a deposit account is set up, the cost of an order is automatically deducted from the account. This device can save time in getting a prepaid order. (The G.P.O. does not send invoices.) For the altruistic librarian who needs a purchase quickly and is confident of reimbursement at a later date, G.P.O. also accepts credit cards.

Another time saver is to order by telephone rather than by mail.⁸ G.P.O. does not have an 800 number, but thanks to its automated system, the time spent "on hold" is very short. An excellent shortcut is to order through the G.P.O. Bookstore in Boston.⁹ The twenty-four regional bookstores operated by G.P.O. stock all of the in-demand and popular titles. The Bookstore will accept deposit accounts, credit cards, and, of course, checks. They will also handle standing orders and send announcements of new titles. Best of all, because of its proximity to Rhode Island, delivery time from the Bookstore is measured in days instead of weeks.

Another way to order publications is to go begging directly to the issuing agency and ask for a free copy. Sometimes, this procedure can be a very successful way to obtain government publications, especially if you emphasize that you are a public institution. When using this tactic, it never hurts to ask to be put on a mailing list, so that you can receive future publications.

Once the government publications arrive at your doorstep, catalog, process, and shelve them along with your other material. Government publications collections work well separately mostly in larger libraries. Patrons only care about whether or not the library has

the information they need and not who publishes it. When your inexpensive and information-packed government publications are being well-used by your patrons, sit back and give yourself a pat on the back for good budget and collection management and for giving a hand in delivering government information to the public.

NOTES

1. Schwarzkopf, LeRoy C., Guide to Popular U.S. Government Publications. Littleton, CO: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1986.

_____. Government Reference Serials. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1988.

_____. Government Reference Books. Biennial. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, Inc.

2. Listed below are recent articles containing bibliographies of government publications:

Keith, Diana J. "Introducing Governmental Documents in Academic Libraries and School Media Centers: a Selected Bibliography and Guide." Reference Service Review 15 (Spring, 1987): 51-66.

Lowe, Joy L. and Stephen Genson. "Government Publications for School and Small Public Libraries." Collection Management 11 (No. 3-4, 1989): 141-50.

Swartz, B.J. and Karen J. Zimmerman. "Hidden Treasure: Government Documents for Children and Teens." School Library Journal 35 (Aug., 1989): 40-3.

3. To obtain a free copy of U.S. Government Books, write to: Free Catalog, P.O. Box 37000, Washington, DC 20013-7000.

4. A free copy of Price List #36 may be obtained by writing to: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20401.

5. Free copies of the Consumer Information Catalog may be obtained by writing to: Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, CO 81002. Copies of this catalog may be ordered in quantities of twenty-five or more for free distribution to patrons.

6. For publications' catalogs of these agen-

cies write to the following:

Public Affairs Office
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration
600 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, DC 20546
Ask for: "NASA Educational Publications List."

U.S. Geological Survey
582 National Center
Reston, VA 22092
Ask for: "New Publications of the U.S. Geological Survey."

Smithsonian Institution Press
Department 900
Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17294-0900
Ask for the "Publications Catalog"

Library of Congress
Central Services Division
Printing and Processing Section
Washington, DC 20540
Ask for: "Library of Congress Selected Publications" or "Library of Congress Publications in Print."

7. Setting up a deposit account involves some paperwork, but it is well worth the effort. For information on starting an account, write or call: Deposit Account Section, Stop SSOR, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Telephone: (202) 783-3238.

8. The address for the U.S. Government Printing Office is: Washington, DC 20402. The Sales Desk telephone number is: (202) 783-3238. Call this number for ordering all G.P.O. publications, special shipping requirements, or deposit account inquiries. When ordering a publication by telephone, payment is made by credit card or deposit account only. All orders, whether by mail or by telephone, require the Stock number (preceded by "S/N"). For customer inquiries, the telephone number is: (202) 275-3050.

9. The address and telephone number of the G.P.O. Boston Bookstore is: Thomas P. O'Neill Building, 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222. Telephone: (617) 565-6680.

Deborah Mongeau is Government Documents Librarian at the University of Rhode Island. Following her graduation from the Rutgers Graduate School of Library and Information Services in 1975, she worked as Reference

Librarian with special concentration in Government Documents in Warren, PA. Returning to Rhode Island, she worked as Home Services Librarian at the Pawtucket Public Library. She then moved to the Warwick Public Library, where again she served as Adult Services Librarian, with responsibility for its Government Documents collection. She also serves as RILA's Membership Chair.

RICHARD LEDERER TO SPEAK AT CONFERENCE

Richard Lederer, noted author and chronicler of the linguistic abuses suffered by the American language, will be the President's speaker at the RILA Conference to be held on June 7 & 8 at Salve Regina College in Newport.

A resident of Concord, New Hampshire, Lederer is the author of the books Crazy English, Anguished English, and Get Thee to a Punnery. He will speak at the conference dinner at Ochre Court on Thursday evening, June 7. Autographed copies of his works will be available at this time, and the author will also be selling his books at the conference on Friday morning.

calendar

APRIL 9: Young Adult Round Table, "Folklore Projects with Mike Bell," Pawtucket Public Library, 9:30 AM.

APRIL 16: New England Technical Services Librarians, "Staff Training for the 1990s," Yokens Hotel Center, Portsmouth, NH.

APRIL 20: RHILINET Committee Meeting, Cranston Public Library, 2 PM.

APRIL 22-28: National Library Week.

APRIL 24: National Library Legislative Day, Washington, DC.

APRIL 25: National Library Week "Night of a Thousand Stars."

APRIL 26: RILA Reception for Legislators, Rhode Island State House.

APRIL 28: Fifth Annual Literacy Volunteers of America - R.I., Inc. Conference, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Rocky Hill School, Warwick, RI.

JUNE 7-8: RILA Annual Conference, Salve Regina College, Newport.

RILA APPROVES MOTIONS RELATING TO FEDERAL ISSUES

At its monthly meeting on March 6, RILA's Executive Board approved the following motions:

--Moved that the Rhode Island Library Association urge the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation to support the restoration of funding for LSCA Title I and Title II in the Fiscal Year 1991 federal budget.

--Moved that the Rhode Island Library Association communicate to the members of the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee the importance of LSCA Title I and Title II funding to public libraries and urge that the Subcommittee restore the funding for Titles I and II in the Fiscal Year 1991 federal budget.

--Moved that the Rhode Island Library Association urge the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation to support the Library of Congress' 1991 budget request of \$326 million.

Impact of Loss of Library Services and Construction Act Funds on Rhode Island

Program	Reduction in Program
Library Services to the Blind and Physically Handicapped	34% \$93,475
Library Services to the Institutionalized	20% \$32,916
Services to the Elderly	63% \$36,256
Literacy Services	100% \$30,000
Services to the Non-English Speaking	50% \$ 6,000
Services to the Dis-advantaged/Inadequately Served	50% \$ 9,494
Improvement of Public Library Services	50% \$239,301

- *Summer Reading Program support
- *Library programs for adults
- *Professional Collection
- *Consultant assistance on library development

Access to Library Materials 100%
\$20,000

- *Support for Cooperating Libraries Automated Network
- *Citizen access to library materials in other public libraries

Public Library Construction 10%
\$152,722

Major Urban Resource Library Grant 100%
\$12,458

Total Loss of Federal Funding For Rhode Island

Title I	\$479,900
Title II	\$152,722
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$632,622</u>

Bruce Daniels, Director of the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services, urges that members of RILA contact their Senators and Representatives to counter-act these measures. He has composed the following letter as a sample of what might be included in such correspondence:

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

In his 1991 budget, President Bush has recommended no funding for the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Title I Public Library Services and Title II - Public Library Construction. The impact of these cuts in Rhode Island would be significant. Under Title I we would lose \$479,900, and under Title II we would lose \$152,722. These cuts would affect every city and town and impact on children, the elderly, the blind and physically handicapped, those with literacy problems, residents of institutions and the economically disadvantaged. Enclosed is a fact sheet that describes the programs that would be affected and the numbers of people impacted.

The funding of LSCA Title I and Title II in the context of the total federal budget is very small, but the impact of that funding on the people we serve is immense. To understand the importance of this funding

**TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR
AWARD SOLICITED**

all you would need to do is to talk to one of our users of the library service to the blind and physically handicapped who might lose the service because of the federal reductions.

It is our understanding that the officials of the United States Department of Education are using an NCES publication -- Public Libraries in Forty-Four States and the District of Columbia to support their contention that only 25% of the LSCA Title I funds are going to public libraries for targeted programs. This is a totally inaccurate statement. The NCES document is a working document and contains many flaws. For example, it states that Rhode Island public libraries received no federal funds in 1988 when in actuality they received \$280,543. The NCES publication covers only public libraries while the Library Services and Construction Act targets not only public library services but also services to the blind and physically handicapped and to the residents of institutions.

I urge you to talk with your colleagues on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriation Subcommittee to counteract the inaccurate information that the Department of Education is providing and to urge that funding for LSCA Title I and Title II be provided at least at 1990 levels. Without these funds services to the elderly, the blind and physically handicapped, those with literacy problems, and the disadvantaged will be significantly impacted.

Names and addresses of appropriate Congress persons are as follows:

Senator Claiborne Pell
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Chafee
567 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Claudine Schneider
1512 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Ronald K. Machtley
1123 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Once again, nominations for the "Trustee of the Year" Award are being solicited. Following is a copy of a letter directed toward all members of the Rhode Island Library Association asking for nominations for such an award.

Dear Members of RILA:

The Rhode Island Library Association presents the Trustee of the Year Award in recognition of a trustee's leadership in significantly extending or improving library services, or his or her completion of many years of conscientious service. The award is intended to bring statewide recognition to such individuals and to honor those hundreds of people who give so unselfishly of their time while serving as public library trustees.

The trustee service so honored may have been performed at the local, regional, state or national levels, or any combination of the above. Nominations are limited to trustees who were in active service during some portion of the last calendar year (1989). Equal consideration is given to all trustees regardless of the size of their libraries. Names of past nominees who have not received the award may be resubmitted. The nomination should, however be updated and show additional accomplishments.

A letter of nomination describing the candidate's activities and achievement should be addressed to Carol DiPrete, President, Rhode Island Library Association and sent care of Roger Williams College, Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI 02809. Nominations should be no longer than three double-spaced typewritten pages, and should be postmarked no later than April 20, 1990. Please send in triplicate.

Would you please share this information with your trustees and staff.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donna J. Roberts
Chairman, RILA Trustees Committee

PROGRESS REPORT: RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL FOR THE PRESERVATION OF RESEARCH RESOURCES

In March 1989, a national invitational conference, co-sponsored by the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the NEH, the NHPRC, to name a few, was held in Washington, DC to explore the development of cooperative preservation programs within individual states. The conference was attended by one hundred forty-eight individuals, including state archivists, state librarians, heads of state historical societies, and university librarians, representing forty-seven states, three territories and the District of Columbia. Rhode Island was represented by Merrily E. Taylor, Director of Libraries at Brown University, Beth Perry for DSLS, and Madeleine B. Telfeyan, Director of the Rhode Island Historical Society Library.

The impetus for the conference came, in part, from the realization that a significant number of states was already in the process of developing statewide preservation programs. The purpose of each program boils down to the need to preserve collections held by libraries, archives and historical societies which are important, if not crucial, to our cultural and intellectual heritage. The conference was informative, but more than that, it was inspirational and motivating.

The funding is available from NEH for cooperative state preservation programs. Successful models exist. Last, but by no means least, there is a growing awareness of the scope and importance of the preservation problem on the part of the general public, legislators, and granting bodies.

The Rhode Island delegation returned convinced that given our size, our history of cooperation among libraries, the advent of the appointment of the first full time, professionally trained state archivist, and the NHPRC grant project presently in progress, a state plan was possible. After enlisting the help of Robert Schnare, Director of the Naval War College Library, who has participated in the New York State program, and the support of DSLS and CRIARL, a meeting was called July 27, 1989, assembling representatives of organizations and institutions with interest in the historical heritage of Rhode Island and/or experience in preservation.

The Rhode Island Council for the Preservation

of Research Resources was born. The Council agreed to pursue four initiatives: (1) a conference to educate and incite action, (2) the revision of the state disaster plan, (3) the introduction of legislation that would fund an initial conservation effort to benefit Rhode Island's thirty-nine cities and towns, (4) the preparation and submission of a NEH planning grant to formulate a preservation plan. To reach these noble ends, subcommittees were formed.

DSLS has agreed to act as a clearinghouse for information and communication in these initial phases, and to act as the coordinator and host of the NEH grant project when the time comes.

CRIARL has agreed to act as "responsible fiscal agent" for the group in application of grants for which DSLS, as a state agency, cannot apply.

The Council has met monthly since July, and subcommittees meet more frequently than that. Several requests have been sent by the Conference Planning Committee. Three requests to private companies remain outstanding, and three others were in the mail in early January. A day-long conference is planned. Suggestions on possible funding sources can be directed to Beth Perry at DSLS or Madeleine Telfeyan at the Rhode Island Historical Society Library.

The Legislation Committee has prepared legislation that would make available \$1,000 to each city and town to conserve the document of its choice in honor of the bicentennial of the Rhode Island Constitution. The only remaining steps are to approach a sponsor, and drum up support in the 1990 legislature. If you would like to know more about this effort contact: Albin Wagner, State Records Administrator, or Tim Slavin, State Archivist.

The Disaster Planning Committee has decided to re-write the state plan. The plan will address small, medium, and large-scale disasters, non-print materials, and will include listings of vendors, (names of contacts will be provided), who carry supplies or provide services needed should a disaster occur. At the time this article was written, the Committee had already completed, in draft form, the section addressing small and medium disasters, and is working on the vendor list. The end product will be a disaster planning packet intended to be used as

people

a guide to assist individual institutions in the preparation of their own tailored plan. The date that the packet will be available is yet to be announced. Questions on this aspect of the Council's efforts should be directed to Michele Cloonan, Preservation Officer, John Hay Library at Brown University, or Bob Chase at the State Records Center.

The Grant Committee, defying the constraints of time, has submitted a proposal to NEH for a one-year planning grant to evaluate and assess the preservation needs of the State and to prepare a report on its findings and its recommendations. The NEH has responded most favorably to the grant proposal, and if all goes as planned the award would be made in June of 1990. Credit should be given to David Maslyn, Merrily Taylor, and Bob Schnare for tending to their charge in such short order.

Council Members include: Tim Slavin, Merrily Taylor, Beth Perry, Bruce Daniels, Gretchen Pfeffer, Albin Wagner, David Maslyn, Robert Chase, Madeleine Telfeyan, Anne Morgan Dodge, Robert Schnare, Sam Streit, Albert Klyberg, Mark Conrad, Erik Stocker, Carol DiPrete, Michele Cloonan, Richard Bidnik, and Philip Weimerskirch.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Council's activities or would like to volunteer your help, please contact Beth Perry, DSLS, or Madeleine Telfeyan at the Rhode Island Historical Society Library.

**Madeleine B. Telfeyan, Librarian
Rhode Island Historical Society**

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NOTICE

If you have not renewed your membership, this will be the last issue of the Bulletin you will receive.

PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

DOLORES TANSEY has been named Director of the Middletown Public Library. She previously served as Director of Tiverton Library Services.

PEGGY HAYES is the new Children's Librarian at the George Hail Free Library in Warren. She was formerly Children's Specialist at the Knight Memorial Library.

AMY KATS, Reference Librarian at the Providence Public Library, resigned her position as of March 30, to pursue graduate study in musicology. She will be working part-time at the Warwick Public Library.

MICHELE CLOONAN, Brown University preservation officer and member of the Rhode Island Council for the Preservation of Research Resources (see above), chaired a panel on "Preservation Education in American Library Schools: Recounting the Ways" at the Annual Conference of ALISE (Association for Library and Information Science Education) in January 1990.



Everywhere I have sought rest and found it not except sitting apart in a nook with a little book.

Thomas Kempis

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LIBRARIANS EXAMINE CHILD ABUSE

The Young Adult Roundtable met on February 13 to examine problems relating to child abuse. Robert Jones, Student Assistance Counselor at Ponaganset High/Middle School presented the program. His experience includes a private practice specializing in heroin, cocaine, and alcohol abuse. He has also taught secondary school English, and toured the country with a six-piece band. The following report on the program was written by Sandy Dupree, a librarian at the Coventry Public Library.

Those who attended this informative, yet disturbing program at the Ponaganset Middle School, North Scituate, walked away with a better understanding of this terrible problem and with much "food-for-thought."

Bob Jones, Student Assistance Counselor, spoke to the Young Adults Roundtable about the problem of child abuse, both physical and sexual. He began the program with a historical overview of child abuse, dividing it into two eras.

Before 1960, anything went. The court system stayed out of the family. Many children's deaths resulting from mysterious origins, such as death from a fall or from "cause unknown," were not investigated. The parent could pretty much do what he or she wanted with the child. The irony of that period was that someone could be held responsible for abusing an animal, but not his or her child.

The second phase occurred after 1960. The nation's consciousness changed. As women gained new rights, so did children. There was a great influx of funding for such social services as child advocacy programs or hot-lines for battered women and their children.

A disturbing feature of Bob's talk is that in the past eight years, funding has disappeared for these protective agencies, and child abuse is again on the rise. Statistics support the fact that more abuse occurs when people feel they aren't being watched. There were 1500 reported deaths from child abuse this year, but experts feel the figure is closer to 5000.

Following this historical perspective, Bob presented facts about the incidence of child abuse and some common traits of perpetrators and their environments. He reported the following:

1. There is more abuse in poorer homes.
2. A woman is the abuser in single family

homes. In two-parent homes, a male is usually the abuser.

3. Couples between the ages of twenty-seven and thirty-four years have the lowest incidence of child abuse.
4. Fifty percent of abuse occurs before the child is eight years old, most in the first four or five years. Boys are abused when younger, before they can fight back, often before age ten. Girls are often abused between the ages of twelve and fifteen.
5. In sixty to seventy percent of homes identified with child abuse, there is alcohol and/or drug abuse.
6. Strong neighborhood structures help eliminate child abuse. Good school systems with teachers sensitive to the issue, YMCAs, parenting classes, and playground facilities for children to run off energy, reduce the problem of abuse.
7. The cultural element is important. For example, in certain Indian tribes and certain South American countries, child abuse is largely unknown, perhaps because hitting children is taboo in many cultures.

The next part of the program was devoted to a description of the law, DCF's (Department of Children and their Families) role in investigating child abuse, and when and how to report suspected abuse. In Rhode Island, the Child Abuse Hotline (CANTS) is the major way in which abuse is reported with forty-seven percent of calls deemed "investigable." According to Bob, statistics show that seventy-five to eighty percent of children are telling the truth about sexual and physical abuse.

Bob outlined the conditions deemed necessary for DCF to investigate:

1. Victim has to be under 18.

2. There has to have been a risk to the child.
3. The incident has to have occurred and been identified physically, for example, through bruises.
4. The abuser must be a parent or care-taker, such as a coach, or a responsible family member.

When someone calls DCF reporting a case of sexual abuse, the Department will investigate the matter immediately. If the abuse is physical, a DCF worker will visit the home that evening or, if there is immediate danger, the DCF worker will go to the school.

Usually, the next step is for one of the following to occur:

1. The child is removed from the home for seventy-two hours and put into a foster care facility or foster home. A case is to be made to a Family Court Judge within seventy-two hours.
2. The child remains in the home and the home is investigated for thirty days. The parents submit to therapy. After thirty days, the case is terminated, or the child is removed.

According to Bob, the court emphasizes keeping the family together, if the child isn't in imminent danger. DCF is empowered to remove a child only temporarily.

Some "danger" signs of abuse of which librarians and teachers can be aware include physical bruises, a withdrawn personality, a fear of adults. They must be interested in books and materials on these topics, and promote conversations among children about abuse.

Bob suggests that librarians can provide a great service by keeping accurate sources available on such topics as incest, child abuse, substance abuse, and suicide.

In conclusion, important factors determining whether child abuse will occur are the personality of the parent and outside conditions, such as lack of money, unemployment, and stressful "husband-wife" dynamics. All can help by being aware that child abuse exists and perhaps by trying to tilt the pendulum more in favor of protecting the young victims, rather than waiting until they are badly hurt.

- The URI GSLIS will hold its Thirteenth Annual Gathering of Graduates and Friends on Saturday, April 21. This year's keynote speaker will be Patrick O'Brien, Director of the Dallas Public Library and an alumnus of the URI GSLIS's first graduating class (1965). Pat will speak on the issue of library leadership and how the public library will evolve into the 21st century. In the afternoon, a panel of GSLIS graduates holding leadership positions in public, academic, school, and special libraries will respond to the issues raised in the keynote address. The program is scheduled from 10 AM to 4 PM and costs \$20 including buffet and refreshments. Checks payable to GSLIS should be sent to the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, Rodman Hall, URI, Kingston, RI 02881.

- To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Department of State Library Services and the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, several notable speakers have been invited to discuss issues facing librarians in the 1990's at a series of speaking programs to be held at DSLS.

On April 11, at 3 PM, Pat Tarin, Assistant to the Deputy Director at the University of Michigan Libraries, will speak on "Cultural Diversity - A Library's Responsibility."

On May 1st, at 2 PM, Dr. Joan Durrance, Associate Dean of the University of Michigan School of Information and Library Studies, will discuss factors influencing the success of reference services.

On May 16, at 3 PM, Elliot Shelkrot, Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia, will discuss the future of the public library.

On June 12, at 2 PM, the last speaker in the series will be Nancy Kranich, Director of Public and Administrative Services at New York University. She will examine the challenges and opportunities facing those who will be using government information in the 1990's.

All of the programs will be held in the Meeting Room at DSLS.

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editor's notebook

At a time of year and time of life when energies often seem either dormant or depleted, it is a cause for rejoicing when an event occurs that raises the spirits and stimulates the heart and mind to action.

Such an event took place on March 7 in the Galante Lounge of the URI GSLIS. Two "out-of-towners" of outstanding reputation appeared together at the Intellectual Freedom Committee's Workshop entitled "The Practical Matters."

Gene Lanier, Director of Graduate Studies, East Carolina University, Department of Library & Information Studies, Chairperson of North Carolina's IFC Committee, runner-up as Library Journal's Librarian of the Year, and national authority, spokesperson, and advocate of intellectual freedom issues in the country, and A.J. Anderson, Professor of Library Science at Simmons College, author of the standard case-study text on intellectual freedom, and authority on management issues as evinced in his current column in Library Journal "How Do You Manage?" shared their ideas, experiences, and passions with a group of fifty persons from varying library backgrounds in our area.

Both, speakers of outstanding charm and power, yet with divergent styles: Lanier always witty, folksy, yet pungent in expressing his ideas and experiences, and Anderson, always elegant and erudite, yet at times his voice passionate with a religious fervor, held the group virtually spellbound.

Though I took notes fast and furiously as ideas bounced around the room and into my head, I can share only some of what I heard last Wednesday.

Gene (with whom several of us had dinner the previous evening and who was generous in helping collate materials for the Workshop at the Rockefeller Library -- that's the kind of person he is!) spoke with two purposes in mind. The first was to make members of the group examine their own attitudes toward First Amendment issues, and the second "to draw a picture of the problems we face."

No stranger to controversy, Gene is known by some for his support of freedom of speech in North Carolina as "Mr. Porn." He also is himself currently under investigation by the

FBI. (He urged all of us to familiarize ourselves with the March issue of American Libraries, which gives instructions for checking individual records with the FBI.)

Gene's honesty impressed me. Too often it seems to me that we give "lip service" to the First Amendment without really grappling with the conflicts it inflicts. For most of us, the words "land of the free and home of the brave" are just that - words. It takes a long and careful examination of one's own conscience to arrive at the conclusion that Gene does. There is no "in between" on this issue; in order to support the freedoms we truly endorse, we have to accept "excesses," i.e. materials we individually find crude and offensive. As Gene says it, "Freedom of speech belongs to the unwashed, as well as the washed."

In an age in which most of our citizens don't even vote, when most of us let "the other guy do the fighting," we must, at some point, join mind with deed, and take a stand. Somewhat embarrassingly, Gene brought to our attention an issue in our own state that no one in the group could even identify. This is the current banning of Channel One, a newscast beamed at students, which does contain two minutes of advertising, and hence, has been prohibited in several states, including Rhode Island. (See the Providence Journal Bulletin, March 7, 1990, C-1; March 10, 1990, A-3). I am distressed that someone from North Carolina knows more about my state than I do!

A.J. continued the theme that "intellectual freedom is an acquired attitude." We must honestly accept that "we're all censors by instinct," that "it's easy to be intolerant of ideas that don't comport with our own," and that the concept of freedom of expression "has to be learned over and over again."

He expanded on Gene's emphasis on the moral aspect of censorship by presenting a historical perspective of it. Since librarians of earlier eras were regarded as "guardians of morality," the ideas undergirding the Library of Rights were not adopted until 1939. Specifically describing the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, A.J. stressed that wartime seems to foster "punishment" for

those who do not follow public dicta.

The twentieth century bears witness to this idea. 1917 saw a return to punishment for those with "wrong" ideas. Those with "left wing tendencies," socialists, anarchists, were persecuted. The aftermath of World War II saw the revival of Loyalty Oaths and McCarthyism. The decade of the Eighties has seen restricted immigration, restrictions on what films can be shown, extended control of what may be written following a term in political office.

Of all the many ideas I carried away with me on Wednesday, I think A.J.'s concept of "substitution" impressed me the most. It is also the most difficult to summarize. However, substitution seems to require that each of us must examine our own consciousness, our own "history," and identify for ourselves what our personal vulnerability in regard to censorship is. Somewhere within, lies something that we cannot accept or tolerate. And once we've identified that personal issue for ourselves, we understand the censor.

One of the most provoking practical questions that A.J. posed for us is whether or not the March issue of Penthouse Magazine, with its interview with Steve Gobie, should be available in the library, and if so, how? restricted access? If restricted, is there really "access"? This kind of question led to the

further: "do books have a deleterious affect on people? If there are "good books," are there "bad books"? (A.J. seemed to think not, though he found himself fascinated by Terry Southern's Candy!) Is there a difference between intellectual freedom and social responsibility? Can we remove Little Black Sambo from the shelves of Harvard University or ban the showing of the Lone Ranger film series, and still be regarded as respecting First Amendment rights?

It was a fascinating and energizing day for me, and I have only described a fraction of the ideas presented during the Workshop. I don't think I'll ever forget A.J.'s quoting from Thomas Paine "If you want to reap the benefits of freedom, you have to suffer the fatigue of supporting it."

I think that often, when planning conferences and programs, we forget the value that stimulating ideas have for us. Inspiration, if only for a day, is its own excuse for being. If I can return to the demands of daily life with a new thought in mind, the day has not been wasted.

Our warmest thanks, Gene and A.J., for coming to Rhode Island and sharing your passion and ideas with us.

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