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Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin

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May 1991

Vision of the Future for the Rhode Island Library Network: A Personal Perspective

BY DOROTHY B. FRECHETTE

Author's Note: This is the edited text of a speech given at the First Annual Meeting of the Rhode Island Library Network on Wednesday, October 24th, 1990. The scenario created here is intended to illustrate the potential of an effective network and does not reflect the policies or procedures of any existing library. My thanks to Patricia Brennan at the Adams Library of Rhode Island College for her review and comments.

I would like to create for you a vision of how the network could operate in the future. Because it is easier for me to formulate concepts working from the concrete to the abstract, I am going to describe this vision in very concrete terms.

Today is Wednesday, October 24, 2000. You've just come back from lunch at your favorite restaurant with the Chair of the English Department and Professor Alice Simmons from the Sociology Department. The Chair has just thanked you for getting some material that she needed on very short notice for a current project. You are in a very good mood due to the memorable combination of your favorite food, compliments from the Dean, and an intriguing conversation on your way back from lunch.

Walking through the warm drizzle of rain, Alice enthusiastically describes the new sociology course that she is planning. She would like your help in locating a copy of a nineteenth-century novel by a relatively unknown New England author that she would like to use for this course. It is not a well-known or significant literary work, but would provide valuable insight for

her students into a particular place, time, and situation. She last read this novel when she was in graduate school, does not own a copy, and has checked the library's online catalog without success. She also remembers reading some commentary about the novel, which she would like to review; however, she remembers only that it appeared in a volume of literary criticism that she thinks she borrowed about a year ago from your library. She has checked the shelves for it, but it is not where she expected to find it, and she remembers only that it has a gray cover, and the words "nineteenth century" and "literature" in the title.

Alice is also wondering if there is anyone with expertise in this particular area, as she has not researched it intensively, and would like other possible titles to consider for inclusion in her course. The course that she is planning will deal with the subject of the single-parent family, and the social and intellectual development of the children raised in a single-parent situation.

As you approach the library, you are thinking about the course Alice is planning, and what resources the library has available to help. You suggest to Alice that she come back to your desk with you, and you'll see what you can find for her. As you fold up your umbrella, several drops of water slide into your coat sleeve, with the resulting cold shiver reminding you that you haven't checked your RHILINET messages file since Tuesday. As you go through the door, the soothing sound of the drizzle outside is replaced by

the murmur of multiple conversations in the library's main room.

Once you and Alice are settled at your desk, you begin your search by choosing to access the local integrated library system from your desktop microcomputer workstation for items with "nineteenth century" in the title. Much to your dismay, there are 352 entries in the database that match this search. Using all the available ways to combine "nineteenth," "century" and "literature" produces a list of twenty titles. Going over the list with you, Alice is able to determine that none of these titles is the one that she is looking for.

Leaving the local system, you sign on to OCLC and press a key which allows you to repeat the same search without keying it again. On OCLC, this search now produces a list of 1345 titles. If you narrow the search to New England libraries, the search produces 475 titles, and if you narrow it to Rhode Island, the search produces 273 titles, still too many to review.

While you are on OCLC, you search for the novel that Alice is interested in, and discover that the closest copy is at the Subscription Library, with the only other copy at a private library in New York which charges \$25.00 per loan. You plan to go ahead and request the book on interlibrary loan, but decide to call up the Subscription Library's loan policies first. Unfortunately, you discover that the library does not lend any items in its collection that were published before 1900. Alice decides that she does not want to spend \$25.00 to borrow the book, and will have to read the novel at the library. She is puzzled that there are only two libraries which appear to have this book.

Alice has an appointment with her Department Chair, and takes her soggy jacket from the back of your visitor's chair, while you promise to give more thought to how you could find the right volume of literary criticism and possibly locate a copy of the novel that she could borrow. Alice's parting comment is that she will gladly go to pick up the book herself if you can find a copy to borrow locally.

To check on your current projects, you decide to leave OCLC and switch over to the RHILINET system, where you are involved in several ongoing "conversations," that is, a series of electronic forums on various topics. Upon entering the RHILINET system, you are immediately informed that you have five messages waiting, and that two of the forums that you are participating in, cooperative collection development on the Chinese economy and library instruction for undergraduates, have material that has been added since the last time you looked.

The system also tells you that there are two upcoming meetings on topics in which you have indi-

cated an interest, and that there are new periodical articles that have been added to the current awareness file you are keeping for a faculty member in the Economics Department on manufacturing trends in United Europe. You press a function key to look at the listings for the two meetings. Deciding that one of the two meetings is definitely worth attending, you press a function key to indicate that you will be attending, and another to print the agenda for the meeting. You read through your mail, printing out a reply to one of your messages, sending a reply to another, forwarding a third to another staff member, and deleting the remaining two after you have read them.

While you are on the system, you decide to look for any resources on "nineteenth century literature" by again pressing a function key and repeating your earlier search. Your search results in a listing of 285 titles on the Rhode Island CD ROM database of holdings, as well as references to two periodical titles, and to one librarian with expertise in this area. Pressing a function key, you make a printout of the name, library, telephone number, and best hours to reach this librarian. Upon reviewing the periodicals selected, you discover that one has "nineteenth century literature" in a previous title, and you suddenly realize that Alice may have been looking at a bound periodical. Searching the RHILINET online periodicals index gives you the citation for an article that may be the one she read, and you print out this information for Alice, along with your local call number.

Returning to the expertise file and searching under "sociology" gives you the name of a librarian with expertise in this field, and you again make a printout. You also decide to repeat your search for the novel that Alice wants, and discover that it is also owned by the Small Public Library, whose holdings are not in OCLC. After a quick online review of the Willett Free Library's loan policy, you go ahead and request the material on interlibrary loan. Based on the statewide interlibrary loan code, you figure that you should have an answer to the request for the loan of the novel by Tuesday at the latest, and that if the Small Public Library can send it, it will take a maximum of three days for the book to travel from the Small Public Library to your library.

You then decide to call the library and ask them to hold the book for Alice to pick up if it is on the shelf. Going back to the online RHILINET system, you request the directory entry for the Small Public Library, and discover that it is not open during your working hours until Monday. You decide to wait for the response to the interlibrary loan request.

Later in the afternoon, Alice calls to ask you to meet her for coffee on Friday morning, and you smugly tell her about the success of your search before you answer "yes."

We will now go to Friday morning. Just before leaving to meet Alice, you stop by your desk and discover that the novel has just been delivered. Decided that you definitely do not need your jacket, you stroll confidently out into the bright October sunshine.

The scenario that I have described here probably bears little relationship to your current library situation. My challenge to you is to take an actual reference question or request for materials that occurs in your library during the next two weeks, and spend some time developing your own scenario for October 2000.

• • •

Dorothy Frechette, Deputy Director at the Department of State Library Services, has worked at DSLS for twenty-one years in a number of areas, including the Bookmobile, Technical Services, Reference, Children's Services, Media, Library Construction and Planning and Development. Since September 1985, she has worked with the members of the Rhode Island Library Network (RHILINET) Committee in planning and evaluating statewide services and addressing issues related to interlibrary loan, standards, statewide databases, telecommunications and other aspects of interlibrary cooperation. Her current responsibilities include the preparation and evaluation of the Department's program under the federal Library Services and Construction Act.

Joey Rodger to Speak at June RILA Conference

BY CAROL DROUGHT

The Rhode Island Library Association's Spring Conference will be held at Salve Regina College in Newport on June 6 and 7. Joey Rodger, Executive Director of the Public Library Association, will present a program on Friday morning in which she will address ways of maintaining and even improving library services during periods of budget cutbacks.

Another highlight of the conference will be Thursday evening's dinner at Ochre Court followed by "Murder at the Class Reunion," an audience participation murder mystery evening presented by Bruce Kalver's Top Hat Productions.

This year's conference program features programs on time management, sources of AIDS information, resource sharing, pornography, marketing,

graphics, census information, preservation, and storytelling, as well as many others. The program was designed to appeal to librarians in all phases of the profession. The input and program planning done by various RILA committees and outside groups were invaluable in producing the range of programming highlighted below.

URI's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies will present a vision of the future of libraries in a program featuring Jon Tryon who will discuss the librarian and the law, Herb Carson whose topic will be interactive media, and Leena Siitonen who will discuss the effects of technology on libraries and librarians.

Representatives from Women Against Violence Against Women, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Rhode Island Council of Churches will present their positions on sexual violence in publishing and the entertainment media in a program sponsored by "Sexual Violence in the Media and the First Amendment: Defending Free Speech or Protecting Pornography" will examine conscious and unconscious decisions librarians make for their readers and the conflicts that can arise between personal and professional attitudes.

Randy L. DeSimone, Assistant Professor of Management at Rhode Island College will present ideas for managing employees who are "stressed out." This timely program will focus on stress producers in the work place, the supervisor's responsibilities in dealing with emotionally stressed employees, and how to motivate staff when the usual motivators, such as salary increases, are not available. Dr. DeSimone was formerly with the Human Resource Department of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and is the author, with David Harris, of a textbook entitled *Human Resource Development*.

"Intrastate Resource Sharing: Experiences in Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Maine" is the title of a panel discussion sponsored by NELINET and moderated by Marshall Keyes, NELINET's Director. Each of the three states has chosen a different way to achieve resource sharing. Kendall Wiggin, State Librarian of New Hampshire will present his state's experiences with a system of microwave and telephone nodes. Elaine Albright, Director of the Raymond Folger Library at the University of Maine, Orono will discuss Maine's state-wide local system. Anita Barney, Assistant Executive Director of the Southwestern Connecticut Library Council will discuss local Group Access Capability (GAC) and OCLC referral center.

Veronica Freeman Ellis author of *Afro-Bets—First Look at Africa* will present a program titled "Different Places, Different Faces: Collecting Multi-Cultural Children's Literature." Ms. Ellis, a native of Liberia, West Africa, is a graduate of Boston University and the Northeastern University Graduate School of Education. She has taught African Culture and English and worked for several years as a reading textbook editor. The program will focus on developing library collections to foster cultural awareness including evaluating and locating materials for collections. A bibliography will be provided. Controversial titles will be discussed. Copies of her book will be available for those wishing to purchase them and have them autographed.

Management styles for customer service will be the focus of a program presented by Dr. Danny W. Hadley. Dr. Hadley is a former Brown University professor with over twenty years experience in helping organizations improve customer service. His clients include Metropolitan Life, the United States Navy, and the American Dental Association. Participants will learn why delivering quality customer service requires a revolutionary change in management.

Marc Kohler, Director of the Puppet Workshop, will present a workshop on using puppets in library programs for children. Mr. Kohler will demonstrate different construction techniques as well as showing how to build voice, sounds, movement and music into a puppet performance.

Ross LeBaugh of Southeastern Massachusetts University will discuss his library's use of paraprofessionals at the Reference Desk and how the training program he uses can be adapted to any situation, academic or public, where paraprofessionals are doing reference work.

The sometimes complex problem of governance will be addressed in a program sponsored by the Government Relations Committee. "Who's in Charge Here, Anyway?" is a question that will be tackled by a panel composed of a library director, a trustee and a local government official. They will examine local ordinances establishing public libraries and try to make sense of public library governance structures.

The New England Bibliographic Instruction Committee of the New England Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries will sponsor "AIDS: Non-traditional Information from Non-traditional Sources" a program and panel discussion led by Edward Santa Vicca, long time AIDS information researcher and Arizona State University librarian. The issue of providing patrons with the best and timeliest information about AIDS will be addressed.

Panelists will include Ray Schmidt, volunteer librarian for the AIDS Action committee, Ann Collins of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Marilyn Bregoli and Dan Pitcher of the School of Social Work at Simmons College.

The CRIARL Government Documents Committee will sponsor a workshop about the Rhode Island State Data Center Program and the Depository Library Program and their roles in disseminating information gathered and distributed by the federal government — information upon which billions of dollars in federal programs, Congressional representation and innumerable community planning and business decisions depend. Christine Payne, Information Services Specialist of the Bureau of the Census, Boston Regional Office will describe basic concepts and demonstrate products, including CD-ROM products, from the 1990 Census.

Friday afternoon's workshop on medical information sources will review the background, structure, and function of the Regional Medical Library Network coordinated by the National Library of Medicine. This workshop, sponsored by the Association of Rhode Island Health Science Libraries, will also review recommended sources and reference methods used in the area of medicine and health.

"It Isn't What You're Selling, It's What They're Buying: Marketing Basics to Promote and Fund-raise for Your Library" is a workshop sponsored by the Trustee Affairs Committee. Tom Ahern, Partner, Horton Ahern Bosquet and Simone P. Joyaux, CFRE, Partner, Public Works Associates will present a process that library boards and staff can use to market services and help fund-raise. Steps include targeting and segmenting the market, creating messages that work, and using low-cost/no-cost communications strategies.

Gregory Trinkaus-Randall, Library, Archives, and Preservation Consultant for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will discuss issues of disaster recovery planning at a workshop sponsored by the Rhode Island Council for the Preservation of Research Resources. He will also review the Rhode Island Disaster Plan developed by RICPRR.

Donald Vieweg, a Communications Consultant with years of management experience, will conduct a workshop on time management in which participants will learn to plan for and attain definite goals, deal with people, including bosses, who take up one's time needlessly, reduce paperwork, avoid unnecessary tasks and get unpleasant jobs done quickly and systematically. One can learn to put hours of "found time" into life.

A "new-for-RILA" feature of the conference will be poster sessions. Plans include a display of library renovation or construction plans and models, bibliographies developed in-house by various types of libraries, items that libraries or Friends groups sell for the benefit of libraries, and an opportunity to share favorite, seemingly silly, reference questions.

The Committee sees the Conference as offering a strong, well-balanced program, which in planning took advantage of the input and hard work of other RILA committees and outside groups. The Conference Committee is hoping to set attendance records for both days of the conference.

Carol Drought is Chair of RILA's Conference Committee, and ALA Councilor. She is also Assistant Director of the Warwick Public Library.

PEOPLE

JENNY FIERRO has been appointed Humanities Collection Development Librarian at Brown University.

VICTORIA KULSIC has been named Archivist, American Mathematical Society Records Management and Archives Project at Brown University. Brown University and the American Mathematical Society recently received a two-year grant from the National Historical Publications Commission to establish an ongoing records management program at the AMS, a byproduct of which will be transferring to Brown any records of permanent historical research value.

JAMES BARRETT has accepted the position of Cataloger/Bibliographer in the Humanities/Social Sciences at the University of Rhode Island.

LUCILLE ROSA has been promoted to Head, Technical Services at the Naval War College.

TISH OLIVER is the new Children's Librarian at the Portsmouth Public Library.

KATHLEEN FLAHERTY is now Director of the Ashaway Free Library in Hopkinton.

JOAN SCHAEFER recently was named Acting Director at the Barrington Public Library.

DR. LEA BOHNERT, Assistant Professor Emeritus at the URI Graduate School of Library & Information Studies, passed away in December after a brief illness.

PETER BENNETT, Chief of Technical Services, PPL, is Chairperson of CLSI's Eastern Region Users Group. He will attend the spring meeting of the group in Daytona Beach, Florida, May 22-24.

BULLETIN BOARD

Governor Sundlun's proposed fiscal '92 budget for the Department of State Library Services includes massive cuts in the Department's state aid grants. Grants to city and town libraries have been eliminated. These amounted to \$413,893 in FY91. Other major cuts include: a reduction of \$698,071 in funding to the Providence Public Library as the statewide reference resource center of the Rhode Island Library Network; a reduction of \$159,120 in additional funding for the Rhode Island Library Network; elimination of state aid to the Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative, which was funded at \$89,608 in FY91; and, a cut of \$11,000 in state aid to libraries in state institutions. The Governor's budget request does provide funding for DSLS to operate at its existing level.

The Rhode Island Historical Society has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to participate, on behalf of the state of Rhode Island in the United States Newspaper Program (USNP).

The USNP is a cooperative national effort to locate, catalogue, preserve on microfilm and make available to researchers, newspapers published in the United States from the eighteenth century to the present. The cataloguing and location of collection will be entered into an international data base used by libraries. The NEH has provided the funds to purchase equipment and hire a staff which will be assisted by the Library staff in this effort.

The Rhode Island project's goal in this phase is to inventory, catalogue and create holdings (who has what) records for the Society and all Rhode Island libraries and institutions having permanent newspaper collections. The project team will also assess the micro-filming needs that will be addressed in the next grant application.

It is the ultimate goal of the Society to have on site microfilm of all the newspapers ever published in Rhode Island and to produce a union list of Rhode Island newspapers held in Rhode Island Libraries.

This project is scheduled to begin April 1, 1991 and end in September of 1992.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 1991

RESOLUTION

*Recognizing Contributions of the Rhode Island Library Network for the Welfare of the
People of the State of Rhode Island*

WHEREAS

The Rhode Island Library Network (RHILINET) provides a framework for all types of libraries to cooperate, to share materials and expertise; and

WHEREAS

The membership of RHILINET includes 70 public libraries and branches, 12 academic libraries, 7 state institutional libraries, 77 school libraries, and 31 special libraries; and

WHEREAS

The statewide telecommunications network is part of the framework that allows libraries to contact one another for the purpose of sharing resources; and

WHEREAS

A statewide delivery system transports materials from loaning library to the patron's own library; and

WHEREAS

Staff members work to facilitate the borrowing of materials between all types of libraries within the state and when necessary outside the state; and

WHEREAS

A database of library holdings exists that one day will include the holdings information of all the libraries in the state; and

WHEREAS

The statewide Reference Resource Center located at the Providence Public Library has been established so that libraries and library patrons can have access to information unavailable at their local library; and

WHEREAS

Libraries that cooperate to share materials and expertise provide improved, cost-effective services for their users; and

WHEREAS

These services are available because of state and federal funding allocated to the Department of State Library Services; and

WHEREAS

The Rhode Island Constitution provides for the support of public libraries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED

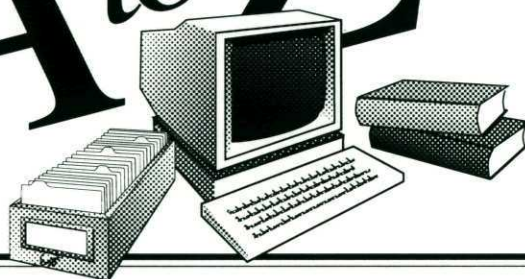
That this Senate on behalf of the people of Rhode Island commend Rhode Island libraries and library staff members, that make up the Rhode Island Library Network, for their cooperation and dedication in providing the services, materials, and information necessary for Rhode Island's future continued growth and development.

Senate Resolution (91-S 1190) passed in the Senate at the January Session of the General Assembly April 2, 1991. Proposed by: Senator Rhoda E. Perry

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Fall 1990 Salary Comparison

The Rhode Island Library Association Personnel Committee has been concerned about public librarians' salaries for some time. It proposes a Salary Resolution annually which urges improvement in salaries of experienced staff as well as a minimum for appointment at an entry level. The Resolution is offered at the Business Meeting and published in the RILA BULLETIN. Two years ago, the Committee compared data from the State Department of Education and DSLS and had individual reports sent to each public library and to its appropriate fiscal authority.

Comparing public and school librarians' salaries has long been recommended by ALA. The librarians share similar educational qualifications and goals and have overlapping patron populations. In most cases they are funded by the same city or town. Salaries, however, are calculated and increased differently. School librarians are part of unionized teachers' unions where the contract generally includes both a step increase and a percentage increase. Public librarians generally have their salaries negotiated directly between the director and the town's fiscal authority. The most common method is to approve a percentage increase without either steps or longevity considerations. The results show a startling disparity within the same town.

The data presented below does **not** include public library directors. Some directors are the sole professional in their library, but their salaries would include compensation for their supervisory responsibilities. The data for directors indicate that the mean salary was \$28,849, with a maximum of \$60,505 and a minimum of \$12,480.

The Mean salary for public staff librarians in the fall of 1990 was \$21,493. The minimum salary for an entry level professional position in that same time period was \$23,750.

School data from R.I. Dept. of Education. Staff Accounting System. Certified Staff, Fall 1990-91 data, comp. from File reports 025-030 and 035-040.

Public library data from DSLS: Table V: Professional Librarians and Salaries in RI Public Libraries, 1990.

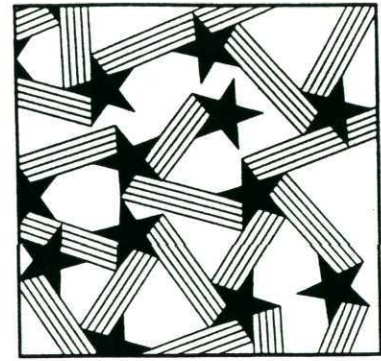
The following information was provided by Mimi Keefe, Reference/Bibliographer, URI. Mimi is a member of the Personnel Committee.

	SCHOOL LIBRARIES		PUBLIC LIBRARIES	
	# LIBN	Ave. Salary	# LIBN	Mean Salary
Barrington	4	39,950	4.4	25,473
Bristol	3	39,612	1.4	17,496
Burrilville	5	35,682		
Jesse Smith			.4	15,379
Pascoag*				
Central Falls	3	39,774	2.6	13,435
CHARIHO	6	40,171		
Charleston*			.4	15,470
Richmond*			.2	16,614
Hopkinton				
Ashaway*				
Langworthy*				
Coventry	6.5	41,208	7.9	20,408
Cranston	12.6	37,570	15.5	30,077
Cumberland*	8.4	31,414	3.6	24,555
E. Greenwich*	6	40,782	2	24,788
E. Providence	12	38,464	8	23,077
EX./W. GREEN	2	33,852		
Exeter				
W. Greenwich				
FOSTER/				
GLOCESTER	2	39,066		
Foster	1	39,191		
Foster*				
Tyler*				
Glocester	1.6	31,904		
Harmony*			.1	16,562
Manton*				
Jamestown	1	32,829		
Johnston	4	40,756	1.8	21,115
Lincoln	5.5	42,183	1.9	23,775
Little Compton	.6	+25,101	1	20,930
Middletown	4	39,878	2	26,517
Narragansett	3	42,743	1	28,000
New Shoreham				
Newport*	7	41,523	3.9	23,573
N. Kingstown	10.8	36,569		
N. Kingstown			5.6	26,869
Willet*				
N. Providence	5	38,777	5.3	19,966
N. Smithfield*	2	42,983		
Pawtucket	16	40,209	10	21,819
Portsmouth*	5.6	38,786	1.3	21,901
Providence*	28	39,492	39	25,789
Scituate	2.2	40,839		
Hope*			1.3	9,165
N. Scituate*				
Smithfield	4	41,131		
E. Smithfield*			1.4	19,740
Greenville*			2.2	24,068
S. Kingstown	6	38,305	5.2	22,324
Tiverton	4	30,338	2.5	15,304
Warren*	4	31,932	1	18,900
Warwick	20	44,298		
Warwick			10.7	28,962
Pontiac*			1.9	23,775
W. Warwick	6	32,430	3	23,828
Westerly*	5	41,796	4	26,813
Woonsocket	9	32,609	3	19,424
TOTAL	225.8	8,753,583	155.5	735,891
AVERAGE/MEAN		38,767		21,493

*Private Library

+Full Time salary; position is filled at .6FTE

1991 NELA PUBLIC RELATIONS EXHIBIT



If you've done an outstanding job of making your community more aware of your library, display your efforts at NELA's Annual Conference, September 29 - October 1, 1991 -- 1,000 New England librarians can benefit from your ideas.

The NELA exhibit will be limited to brochures, flyers, posters, buttons, library logos, calendars, bookmarks, bibliographies, and publicity for coordinated campaigns such as automation and building projects -- no media or newsletter material, please.

Complete the attached form to accompany your entry.



Entry Form for 1991 NELA Public Relations Exhibit

Category (✓ Check one)

- Bibliography
- Bookmark
- Brochure
- Calendar
- Coordinated Campaign
(e.g., building campaign, automation)
- Library Logo
- Poster
- Program Flyer
- Other (e.g. button)

Library: _____

Address: _____

Designer: _____

Submitted by: _____

Description (50 words or less) - include purpose and cost of production:

*Send your entry (a copy of this form must be attached) to:
Jody Newmyer, NELA Public Relations Chair,
Eastern Connecticut State University Library, Willimantic, CT 06226
Entries must be received by September 9, 1991*

CALENDAR

MAY 16: Rhode Island Chapter of the Special Libraries Association Annual Meeting, Brown Faculty Club.

JUNE 6-7: RILA Annual Conference, Salve Regina College.

JUNE 29-JULY 4: ALA Annual Conference.

JULY 9-13: White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services, Washington, DC.

In Memoriam

The library community has been deeply saddened by the passing of two of its finest members during the month of April.

SHIRLEY HEWITT, a valued member of COLA, died on April 1. Shirley's contributions to the improvement of education in Rhode Island are legendary. She was a gifted teacher, whose specialty in reading skills led her to developing whole language and integrated curricular programs as well as the Books and Beyond Program in the Warwick schools. At the time of her death, she was crucially involved with Beverly Plouff in implementing the first children's radio program, *Books Aloud*, on station WWON in Woonsocket.

RUTH CORKILL, Director of the Barrington Public Library, died on April 11. Ruth's contributions to Rhode Island's public libraries are indeed numerous. Those especially who worked with Ruth at the Pawtucket and Barrington Public Libraries will miss her vibrancy, her intelligence, and her leadership. Working with Ruth, whether in a library setting or on the RILA's Executive Board, was always sheer fun. We will remember Ruth as one who confronted any problem, whether big or small, by rolling up her sleeves and getting to the solution, with grace and humor. We will miss her laughter.

Those of us in the library community are truly grateful for the companionship and leadership that Shirley and Ruth gave us.

We extend our sympathies to their families and friends as well as our appreciation for their having lived and given so much to so many.

JOB LINE

ARCHIVIST for the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives, Brown University. Temporary position: full-time for 12 months or part-time for 15-18 months. Responsible for implementing collection development policies, acquiring and preserving documents relating to the history of women at Brown University, of Brown alumnae, and of women in Rhode Island. Emphasis will be given to processing manuscript/archival material. Requirements: Graduate work in a field of the humanities, with work or publications in women's history; experience or training in archival management; knowledge of computers. An MLS degree from an ALA accredited library school is desired. Appointment range: \$25,300-27,425 based upon experience. Interested candidates should send letter of application, resume and names of three references by June 1, 1991, to Patti Andrade, Dept. of Human Resources, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR: Barrington Public Library, serving a community of 16,000 with 95,000 volumes and 303,000 annual circulation. Regional center for the Island Interrelated Library System. Director heads staff of 25, including 5 full-time professional librarians. Responsibilities include annual budget; library services management; property management; comprehensive personnel plan; policy formulation and long-term planning; public relations. Requirements: ALA accredited MLS degree and minimum of 5 years supervisory experience in a public library, with demonstrated management and interactive skills and leadership abilities. Salary range: \$31,008 to \$38,365. Send letter of application, resume and references by May 15, 1991, to Board of Trustees, Barrington Public Library, 281 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806. AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Welcome New Members!

The following are new or reinstated members who joined RILA in March

SARA BENZ, North Providence Union Free Library, Reference/Technical Services; CLAUDIA JEAN BAILEY, Community College of Rhode Island, Knight Campus, Reference; KATHLEEN J. FLAHERTY, Ashaway Free Library, Head Librarian; PAUL H. HOLLIDAY, Cranston Public Library, Technical Services/Systems Coordinator; DIANE MOONEY, North Providence Union Free Library, Trustee; JANICE G. SCHUSTER, Phillips Memorial Library, Providence College, Head of Public Services; CIVIA A. WHITE, Rhode Island State Library, Reference/Government Documents.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

(from back cover)

All I can say is that, just as those who don't vote have no right to criticize the results of elections, so those who do not give support to this lobbying effort cannot complain about apathy and indifference when it comes to libraries.

Two thoughts come to mind that I would respectfully seek your response to. One is that even if some funding is restored to the PPL, it may be time to rethink its role in the library structure. Could it be that the central library should become strictly a reference/research center for the state's librarians and patrons, shifting circulation to its branches and satellite libraries? CLAN does make it possible to "access" and use PPL's materials, without ever going downtown. Obviously, one of PPL's greatest strengths is its research and retrospective collections, and some mechanism would have to be devised to render these available to the public.

My second thought concerns DSLS. Some of you have already expressed some concern that DSLS will be funded at the same level as in 1991. Rather than begrudge DSLS this exception to the crisis that the rest of us face, could this not be an opportunity to make the state library agency more accountable to libraries and librarians across the state? DSLS has many resources in its staff and collections for the rest of us to

draw on. Could we not implement a program whereby public libraries would use DSLS's services and make it accessible and accountable to us?

It is a time to draw together as a single entity, devoted to restoring the best services we can offer to our patrons throughout the state. It is time to give up old enmities, and band together in a common effort. It is time to think creatively about our services and how best to administer them.

Earlier this week, at the funeral service for Ruth Corkill, I was reminded of how close a community we can be. When tragedy strikes, we tend to close ranks and draw closer together. Perhaps that same sense of community is needed now.

Update

A major demonstration of support for restored support to public libraries will be held on Wednesday, May 15, at 3 p.m. at the State House.

Preceding the rally will be a march from the Providence Public Library to the State House, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

All librarians and friends of libraries are urged to attend both the march and the rally. Updated information is available from JIM GILES or JOHN FOX CORY, Cranston Public Library, 943-9080.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

I called a friend and colleague last week to arrange for a dinner date, and in the course of our conversation, she said, "It's a sad time for libraries."

And so it is. Not only because the library community has lost two of its best-loved and respected colleagues, but also, as the Governor produced the long-awaited 1992 budget, we learned that libraries will take severe, and in some cases, devastating cuts.

Most libraries had anticipated a fifty-percent cut in Grants-in-aid, and had begun making plans to adjust to that estimate. Many of you sent notes to RILA, suggesting what cuts would be made. Such areas as staff reduction, staff hiring freezes, curtailing of expensive current reference books as well as popular fiction, were among suggestions you made to us.

None of us anticipated the 100 percent cut in Grants-in-aid we now face. No other "human service" (and I defy Governor Sundlun to deny that libraries fit under any other rubric!) agency has been asked to make that great a sacrifice.

It is difficult to recognize which public library will suffer the most. At first glance, it would seem that the larger urban and suburban libraries undoubtedly will take the greatest "hits." However, cuts to large libraries also hurt the smaller ones who depend on them for materials and services beyond what they can offer alone.

Though I would admit to some degree of bias, having worked there, the 75% cut in funds to the Providence Public Library is intolerable and tantamount to asking it to close its doors and its collections for an undetermined length of time. No major urban library can sustain that kind of abuse.

Not only is the loss of such a major cultural institution critical to the state as well as to the whole concept of RHI-LINET, it is also indicative of the further decay of the core of downtown Providence, and the accompanying disregard of our legislators to what a major central library means to the citizens of Providence and the state.

By the time you are reading these words, a planning committee, consisting of representatives of all library and library-related organizations, should be in effect and making plans to mount a major demonstration of support for restoring funds to our public libraries. I implore each of you, as you are contacted to join our effort, that you do so.

I recognize, for I sense it in myself, that many of us are skeptical of the efficacy of being reasonable within applying reason and logic to legislators, whose reputations have become severely tarnished in the last six months. The "why bother?" mentality affects me, too.

(continued on page 11)

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