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Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin

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October 1992

HELIN: Higher Education Library Information Network

BY CAROL K. DIPRETE

The virtual library, proposed and discussed by Elizabeth Myers in a recent *DSLS Newsletter*, is based on a comprehensive plan of coordination and cooperation by and among all Rhode Island libraries. HELIN, the computerized library system used by many of Rhode Island's academic libraries, would (along with CLAN) presumably be a cornerstone of this virtual library. The following article, by Carol DiPrete, helps all Rhode Island librarians become acquainted with HELIN and its operations.

HELIN, the Higher Education Library Information Network, is an integrated computerized library system shared by five higher education institutions: the University of Rhode Island (which serves as the central site), Rhode Island College, the Community College of Rhode Island, Roger Williams University, and Providence College. The HELIN consortium was formed in 1984 among the three public higher education institutions for the purpose of sharing an automated circulation system. In 1990 Roger Williams became a member of HELIN, followed by Providence College in 1992.

The system uses the Innovative Interfaces Inc. (III, or "triple I") software. Five modules have already been installed; however, no one institution is presently using all of the modules. The modules in use are circulation, reserves, the online catalog, an OCLC interface, and acquisitions. In the future the serials module will be installed. Communication from the central site to remote sites is provided through a contract with Data Comm, an information telecommunications company.

The database consists of approximately one million titles, almost two million volumes with only a 32% overlap. Each institution brings a uniqueness to the consortium. RIC has an excellent education collection; PC has extensive holdings in

philosophy and religion; CCRI provides technology materials; RWU has a strong architecture collection; and URI has important collections in marine biology, engineering, and business.

Governance of HELIN is provided by the Management Committee, which consists of the directors of the respective libraries. Each institution carries one vote. Each institution also has one staff member designated as the Institutional Representative, who acts as both an on-site trouble-shooter and a liaison (through the Institutional Representatives Committee) with other institutions. There are other committees composed of librarians from each institution which deal with more specific issues. These committees are Reference, Cataloging, Circulation, Acquisitions, and Serials. Each of these committees makes recommendations to the Management Committee which sets policy for the consortium.

Innovative Interface's software is known to be "user friendly." Some of the features of the HELIN online catalog are: authority control for both subject headings and authors' names; subject searching using LC subject headings which may be rotated (entered not in exact subdivision order); keyword searching of titles and contents notes; keyword searching of subject headings (future enhancement); and displaying the circulation status of items. OCLC records can be

transferred directly into the online catalog. The system can also be used to order materials and to generate management reports to use in decision-making about use of library materials.

An agreement has been signed by all of the institutions which outlines institutional responsibilities. One of the major issues was agreeing to have reciprocal borrowing among the members of HELIN. The agreement also outlines distribution of costs. Other decisions had to be made so that sharing a system would run smoothly. One decision was that all institutions will use full MARC records; another was that the last-entered cataloging record will overlay (replace) previously entered records. If a patron is blocked from using one library, he/she will be blocked from using all of the libraries. If a patron borrows from one library and does not return materials, then the home library is responsible for those materials.

Each year HELIN becomes a little more sophisticated in its governance structure, its communication patterns, and its use of the system. As is true of most consortia, HELIN has experienced its share of growing pains and is developing into a mature system.

A big question that is looming is how HELIN, CLAN, and other library systems will interface or whether they will at all. That is the next generation of sharing resources which needs to be addressed at the statewide level using the Department of State Library Services and the Library Board as conduits. This would move us toward "The Library of Rhode Island" concept as outlined in the *DSLS Newsletter* of March-April 1992. It is the unique collections of each Rhode Island library which offer the best resources and services to our users. Now is the time to consider a statewide database or a network of all types of libraries, with all of the actors involved.

Carol DiPrete is Dean of Academic Services/Director of Libraries, Roger Williams University

Columbus Symposium At State House

The two-year humanities series, "Christopher Columbus: From Genoa to the New World," will present its final discussion program in the Executive Chamber, Room 222, at the Rhode Island State House on Wednesday evening, October 21 at 7 p.m. The program will

be free and open to the public, announced Barbara Weaver, Director of the Department of State Library Services (DSLS).

"This project has criss-crossed the state in the last two years, visiting fifteen libraries, two city halls, a college campus and a bank lobby," said Weaver. "And we are very pleased that it will be at the State House at the precise moment of the 500th anniversary."

The project, Weaver explained, has two parts. The exhibit consists of thirty colorful posters which illustrate the life and achievements of Christopher Columbus. It contains reproductions of rare archival documents, photographs of significant locations in the Old and New Worlds, and ancient and modern nautical charts. The exhibit was a gift of the Italian government to the John Carter Brown Library, which organized the project along with the DSLS.

The second part of the project was a lecture series in which scholars from the faculties of Brown University, Rhode Island College, the University of Rhode Island and the Naval War College examined the positive and negative effects of the Encounter between the two worlds.

During the month of October the exhibit will be on display just behind the rotunda in the State House, said Weaver. And on the evening of October 21, six scholars will discuss with a public audience the many repercussions of Columbus's fateful voyage, including the explosion of scientific knowledge, the tragic decimation of native populations, and the exchanges of food, diseases, and plants between the Old and the New Worlds.

"We are calling this event a symposium, because Webster's defines a symposium as a social gathering at which there is free interchange of ideas. That's what we hope will happen on the evening of October 21 at the State House."

Weaver said the organizers were grateful to the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities, which provided major funding for the project, as well as to the Rhode Island Foundation and Hospital Trust National Bank, which provided additional funding.

For further information about the Columbus exhibit or the State House Symposium, call the Department of State Library Services at 277-2726.

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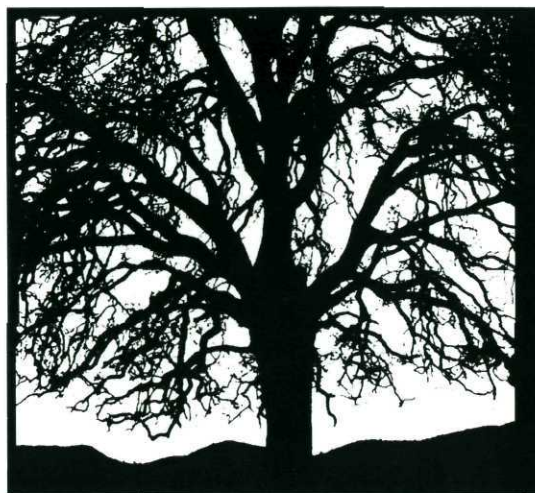
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Alternative dispute resolution refers to procedures for settling disputes by means other than litigation such as arbitration, mediation, or mini-trial. Because it is usually less costly and more expeditious, it has become increasingly popular in resolving disputes that would likely otherwise involve court litigation. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that has recently taken effect encourages these types of voluntary alternatives to litigation.

Mr. J. Michael Keating, Jr., of Tillinghast, Collins and Graham, will discuss the uses of alternative dispute resolution in regard to the ADA, with particular emphasis on how libraries can employ these procedures, where to receive training and who should be trained. Mr. Keating is a graduate of Holy Cross and Georgetown University and a member of the Human Resource-Labor Relations Group.

The program will begin with remarks by Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary for the Rhode Island Governor's Commission on the Handicapped. He will provide an overview of the functions of this commission and the significance of the ADA for library patrons and staff.

This program is highly relevant for librarians, trustees, town officials and anyone interested in learning how to mediate disputes and avoid costly litigation.

Schedule

8:30	Registration
9:30	Program begins
1:30	Business meeting - open to all

Registration fees:

RILA/RIEMA members	\$20.00
Non-members	\$25.00
Students	\$15.00

Preregistration is required by November 3, 1992
For additional information contact:

Brian Walsh
Pawtucket Public Library
725-3714

Highlights from the Executive Board Meeting

September 8, 1992

Treasurer's Report: Judy Bell presented a brief summation of the August 4th meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee in preparation for the drafting of the 1993 budget.

RIEMA Report: John Cory and Cheryl McCarthy reported that RIEMA has sent letters to each member regarding the September public hearings conducted by the Children's Cabinet for comments on the *State Child System Plan 1992-97*. RIEMA members were asked in the letter to attend hearings if possible and strongly urge that school and public libraries be mentioned more prominently in the plan. The Executive Board then decided that, because of time constraints, a letter from the RILA President urging librarians to attend hearings and support more emphasis on libraries in the plan be sent via telefacsimile to as many libraries as possible.

DSLS Report: Barbara Weaver reported (1) that the Library Board of R. I. was meeting on September 21st and that all meetings of this group are open to all interested parties; upcoming dates will be posted in the *DSLS Newsletter* and the *RILA Bulletin*; (2) that Congress may enact a 10% decrease in LSCA funding; (3) that, as a result of Hurricane Andrew, over \$20 million damage was suffered by the Miami-Dade County Public Library System and that 21 staff members in the system's 31 branches lost their homes; she suggested that RILA enact an "adopt-a-library" campaign to provide financial assistance to this system; and (4) that she is strongly in favor of an emphasis on the role of libraries as part of the *State Child System Plan*.

NELA Councilor Report: Eileen Socha reported on the NELA Counterparts Meeting of August 6-7 and updated the Board on the NELA Annual Meeting to be held October 4-6. She also announced that the 1993 NELA Annual Meeting would be in Burlington, VT and that NELA's 1994 Annual Meeting will be held in Providence, RI.

The following resolutions were passed by the Executive Board:

- 1 that some type of an "adopt-a-library" program benefiting the Miami-Dade County library system be explored;
2. that Mattie Gustafson be appointed Managing Editor of the *RILA Bulletin*;

3. that the Publications Committee Chairperson or her/his designee report on RILA Executive Board meetings for the RILA *Bulletin*.

Finally, the Executive Board began the process of drafting a 1993 Association budget.

Reported by Frank Iacono, RILA Publications Committee

BULLETIN BOARD

The theme for National Library Week 1993 – and 1994 – is “Libraries Change Lives.”

The ALA National Library Week (NLW) Committee made the announcement at the National Library Week Workshop at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.

This is the first time a National Library Week theme has been selected for two consecutive years. The dates are April 18-24, 1993, and April 17-23, 1994.

Nancy Davenport, 1991-92 chair of the NLW Committee, noted that the theme complements the “Books Change Lives” theme adopted by the Library of Congress for 1993 and 1994 and allows more planning time.

It also ties in with ALA President Marilyn Miller’s theme “Empowering People through Libraries” and focuses attention on the contributions of libraries at a time when many are having to fight budget cuts.



SilverPlatter Information announced that Brown University of Providence, Rhode Island, has officially accepted the role of the first alpha test site of SilverPlatter’s Electronic Reference Library (ERL). SilverPlatter’s Electronic Reference Library represents a pathway of technologies that bring reference information to greater numbers of people in an innovative, economical manner. ERL lays the foundation for an information infrastructure capable of efficiently managing large collections of data in a uniform way.

The first step in SilverPlatter’s development of the ERL is the creation of client/server architecture. This architecture revolutionizes how information travels over networks and how information is distributed over wide areas. A feature of the client/server architecture is that it can unite environments that use many different

types of workstations. Many different clients can be developed to allow access by PC, Macintosh, Unix, and other workstations.

The first product to utilize the ERL technology will be an enhanced version of Medical and Academic Reference Center, which utilizes client/server technology and combines it with Unix-based application servers; multiserver, multidatabase support; choice of data on CD or hard disk; TCP/IP compatibility; DOS clients with familiar SPIRS functionality; user administration software; user statistics software; and dial-in and field service support.

Brown University has a campus network that connects over 120 buildings and over 1,500 PCs, 2,000 Macintoshes, and 500 Unix terminals and workstations. Each of the 1,500 PCs will have potential access to the ERL, using SilverPlatter’s DOS ERL client.

Initially, Brown will purchase a twenty-four user ERL server that will run MEDLINE, PsycLIT, and Biological Abstracts. A general release to customers of Reference Centers using ERL, technology is expected in early 1993. For more information contact SilverPlatter at (800) 343-0064.



Nominations are being sought for the 1993 Grolier Foundation Award presented annually by the American Library Association (ALA). The deadline is December 1, 1992.

The award of \$1,000 is presented annually to a librarian who exemplifies outstanding achievement by unusual contributions to the stimulation and guidance of reading by children and young people. The award winner should have made a difference in the reading habits of young persons through high school age, either directly or through influence on adults who work with them. The award may recognize continuing service or one particular contribution of lasting value.

A nomination form and a statement describing in detail the nominee’s exceptional contributions to the field are required. Additional letters of support are welcome if they define other facets or strengths of the candidate.

Past winners have included Dorothy Broderick, Lucille Thomas, Spencer Shaw, Zena Sutherland and Mabel Williams.

For nomination forms and further information, write or call: ALA Awards, 50 E. Huron

Street, Chicago, IL 60611, 1-800-545-2433. Nominations should be sent to: Donna J. Dufault, Grolier Foundation Award Jury, North Kingstown Free Library, 100 Boone Street, North Kingstown, RI 02852.



If you work in the library field in New England these days, you've probably witnessed or been involved in a success story that made you proud to work in a library or a frustrating story that made you want to weep.

Taking a cue from former ALA President Patricia Schuman who asked the nation's libraries for tales of woe and tales of joy, *New England Libraries* would like your best and worst library stories from 1992. A horrendous budget cut, an architectural success, a censorship clash, or an answer to a reference question that made a big difference are just some examples of what we seek to publish in early 1993.

Type up your story in 200 words or less, include a contact person and phone number, and send it by December 1, 1992 to: *New England Libraries*, Renée Olson, Editor, 4 Summit Drive, #215, Reading, MA 01867 (FAX 617-942-9106).



"Re-Visioning Libraries" is the topic of the Fall Conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries/New England Chapter. The Conference will be held on **Friday, November 6, 1992**, at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

David Penniman, President of the Council on Library Resources, is the keynote speaker. The provocative program, which includes speakers, workshops, and panel discussions, will address the question, "How can libraries and librarians take advantage of the profound technological changes currently taking place, and not become their victims?"

The registration fee, which includes lunch, is \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members, and \$10 for library science students. For more information or registration forms, contact: Lynda Leahy, Associate Dean for User Services and Collection Development, 320 Snell Library, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, (617) 437-4920.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 21: RHILINET Third Annual Meeting, Cranston Public Library, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

OCTOBER 21: URI GSLIS Colloquium, "Croatia's Literary Landmarks: Survival or Extinction," Barbara Sporer Filipac, (John Hay Library, Brown University), Rodman Hall, URI, 12:30-2 p.m.

OCTOBER 24-25: RI Festival of Children's Books and Authors, Lincoln School, 301 Butler Avenue, Providence, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 12-5 p.m. on Sunday.

OCTOBER 26: Library Board of RI, 4-6 p.m., Department of State Library Services

NOVEMBER 9: RILA Fall Meeting, Barrington Public Library

NOVEMBER 16: Library Board of RI, 4-6 p.m. Department of State Library Services

NOVEMBER 16-22: Children's Book Week

NOVEMBER 18: Young Adult Round Table, "One Author in Depth: Avi," Warwick Vets High School, 2:45 p.m.

JANUARY 22-28: ALA Midwinter Conference, Denver, CO

(continued from back)

burgeoning technology and the services it enables makes this a wondrous and exciting time to be part of any library - academic, public, school, special.

The kinds and pace of the changes that have been happening in and around libraries necessitates, to my mind, two things: 1. That librarians themselves become involved in the development and implementation of all information technologies. 2. That librarians remain informed and in intentional and constant communication - with each other, with the institutions and patrons they serve, and with the institutions and organizations that serve them.

I see RILA, and by extension the RILA *Bulletin*, as a primary means of communication and information sharing in the Rhode Island library community.

I urge you to participate in this ongoing and important communication link. Letters, opinions, essays, articles - about the new technologies, or any other aspect of library service that interests and educates, are solicited, invited and encouraged. Please join the RILA *Bulletin* staff and myself in our efforts to put debate and discussion in the forefront of our professional lives together.

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As we've worked on specific ALA projects and scrutinized important issues of mutual concern, the exchange of ideas has always been a source of enrichment for my professional life. ”

—Elliot L. Shelkrot
President and Director, Free Library of Philadelphia
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ALA: Both who and what to know.

EDITOR'S JOURNAL

I had a college professor once who said, if you did something once, it was an event; if you did it twice, it became a tradition. The RILA tradition seems to be for the incoming editor of the *Bulletin* to introduce his or herself and say something about editorial philosophy and direction. I am somewhat reluctant to begin my stint as *Bulletin* editor by talking about myself. Many of you already know me, from my 15 years as a Rhode Island librarian. I will, however, begin by sharing a few personal thoughts.

Returning to the field of library science and accepting the position as editor of the RILA *Bulletin* has been like coming home and entering a new world. Let me explain.

Libraries have always been a second home to me. Long before I became a librarian - as director of Tiverton Library Service, or as the Head of Reference at Newport Public Library - books and reading, journals, rows and rows of stacks, reference desks, were all an important part of my life. From my younger days at the Watertown (Massachusetts) Public Library, when the children's librarian struggled mightily (and, I am pleased to report, unsuccessfully) to limit my reading to children's books, to my first days as a library page (a *bona fide* library employee who *finally* did not have to pay overdue fines), the constant, subdued activity of the public library has called to me.

I will never forget my first reference course at URI (with Stuart Schneider) and how it revealed a hitherto unknown world of dictionaries, directories, bibliographies, and union lists. Directories and bibliographies may seem, to most, like dry lists of even dryer texts, but to me they were gateways to fantastic and almost limitless arenas of knowledge. (Such was the state of my naivete in those days!)

And while I was "away" earning yet another degree (a Master's of Theological Studies at Boston University School of Theology), I was never very far from libraries. The ability to find my way around a library was key to any success I enjoyed at BU. In fact, I spent many hours helping fellow graduate students unravel the mysteries surrounding the large and often imposing Boston University libraries.

So "returning" to the library world is, as I said, like coming home.

But libraries have changed immensely in the few years I have been away. On-line catalogs and data bases, CD-ROM indices and abstracts, electronic mail - all of these are relatively new and while most libraries remain collection centered, thoughts and procedures about access to and acquisition of that collection have changed dramatically - and will continue to change.

A series of articles in *College and Research Library News* entitled "The Future of Reference" discusses the kind of basic change and restructuring (they call it a *paradigm shift*) the academic library might undergo as a result of the new technologies. I don't pretend to be able to envision all the ramifications of these new paradigms, but I can see that

(Continued on page 6)

The RILA BULLETIN is published nine times per year by the Rhode Island Library Association. Managing Editor: Mattie Gustafson, 2 Granada Terrace, Middletown, RI 02840 (846-3332), Feature Editors: Norman Desmarais, Providence College, Phillips Memorial Library, Providence, RI 02918 (865-2241) and Wendy Knickerbocker, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908 (456-9605); News Editor: Frank Iacono, DSLS, 300 Richmond Street, Providence, RI 02903-4222 (277-2726); Jobline: Pam Stoddard, Government Documents Department, URI Library, Kingston, RI 02881 (792-2606); Advertising and Subscriptions Manager: Elizabeth Johnson, Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Road, Cranston, RI 02920 (943-9080). A current list of RILA Executive Board Members and Committee Chairs is available in Volume 65, No. 1-2. Subscriptions: free to members; \$15/year in U.S.; \$20/year foreign. Deadlines: 1st of the month for features and 15th of the month for everything else. Advertising: \$130 full page; \$65 half page; \$40 quarter page; \$15 business card size. Change of address: members contact the Membership Committee Chair, Donna Dufault, 1503 Middle Road, East Greenwich, RI 02818 (885-3174). Subscription correspondence: contact Subscriptions Manager. For further information, contact the appropriate Editor. Technical Production: Verbatim, Inc., 769B Hope Street, Providence, RI 02906 (273-6930). Printing by Lewis Graphics, 1655 Elmwood Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920 (941-4444). LC 57-26438.

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