

RILA Bulletin

Rhode Island Library Association

12-1979

Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 52, no. 5

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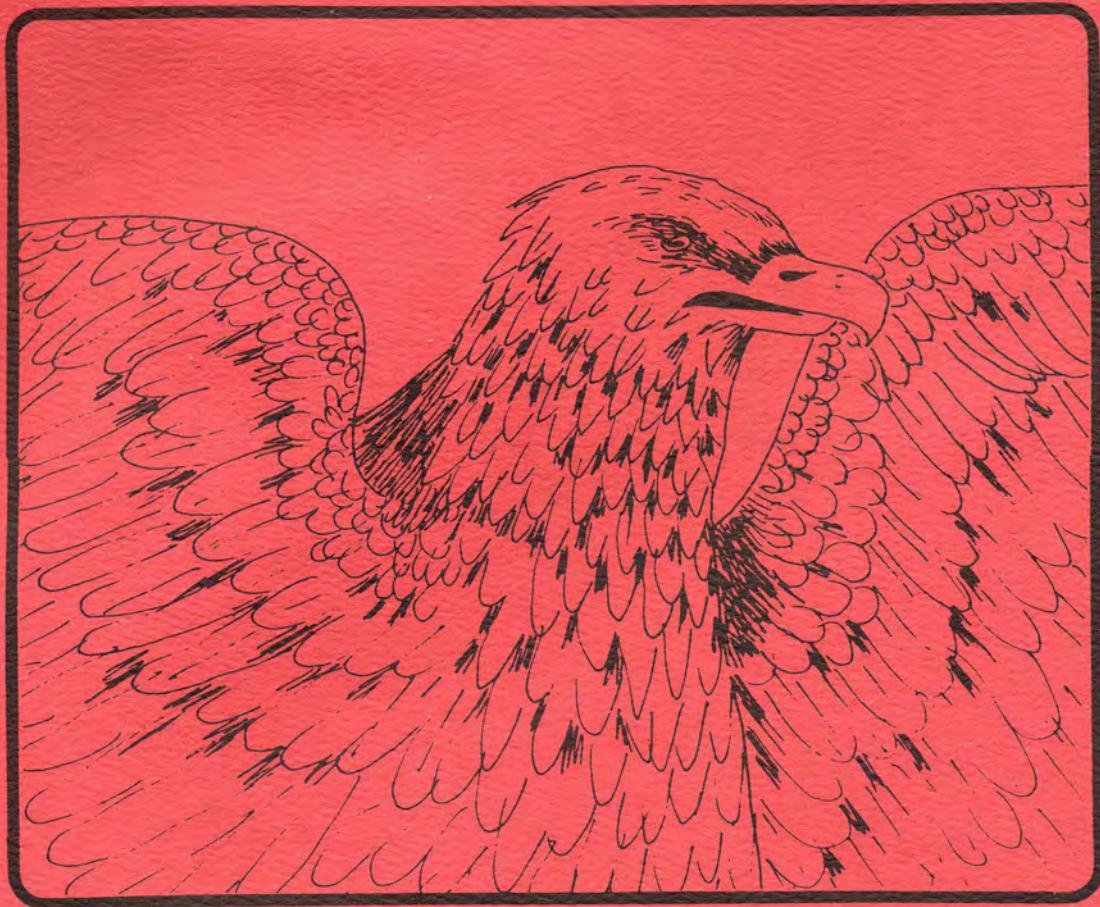
RILA, "Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 52, no. 5" (1979). *RILA Bulletin*. Book 228.
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0146-8685

Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin



Government Relations

December 1979

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

December 1979 Volume 52 No.5
Indexed in Current Awareness
Library Literature
Z673R52 57-26438

EDITORIAL NOTICE:

The Bulletin appears monthly except in August. News and articles should be submitted to the editor by the 10th day of each month for publication by the end of that month.

The Bulletin is a publication for public, school, academic and special libraries of Rhode Island. Published by the Rhode Island Library Association, the Bulletin welcomes news and discussion of interest to RILA members. Articles contained herein, however, do not necessarily reflect the ideas of the RILA membership, or the Bulletin staff or advertisers. All articles about library and media matters will be considered. All should be signed and should not exceed ten double spaced typed pages unless the editor is consulted.

The Bulletin subscription rates are \$7.00/year for agencies or individuals not holding membership in RILA. Advertising rates per issue are \$20 per $\frac{1}{2}$ page, \$35 per $\frac{1}{2}$ page, and \$50 per full page. Call the advertising manager for further information.

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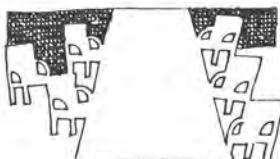
Printed by East Side Copy
Providence RI 02906

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



So much of note has occurred lately in the library world that we hardly know where to focus our attention. The Rhode Island Library Association held a fine Annual Conference which drew a record attendance of 370 people at the beginning of November. The White House Conference on Library and Information Services - that once-in-a-blue-moon event - took place in mid-November. The new Citizens for Rhode Island Libraries, our potential grassroots support group, made its first bid for membership at a State House reception at the end of November. But, looking to the future and to the opening of a new session of the Rhode Island General Assembly in January, we are devoting this December issue of the RILA Bulletin to Government Relations. David Green, Chairman of RILA's Government Relations Committee, and Jacqueline Hess, the new RILA legislative consultant, present some plans for action for the coming season.

They are asking for something many of us find difficult: participation in the political arena. It is easier to get involved if we think of this activity as an integral part of our normal work. Our mission is to provide excellent information service to our designated clientele, usually the residents of our library's city or town. Our local legislators are part of that clientele, so we should be providing them information service. We have no trouble with the idea of outreach services to the homebound, the blind, the illiterate, or the mentally retarded. Why should we not reach out to serve legislators too? Don't imagine they are automatic experts. They are just as likely to be overwhelmed by the general flood of information as any other member of modern society. They are very likely to appreciate our services if we supply timely, accurate information.



In addition, we report on parts of the RILA Annual Conference in this issue. Due to illness among the reporting staff, I am sorry to say we missed coverage of some of the high points. Dan Bergen, who served as RILA's Observer, is filing a report on the White House Conference for the January Bulletin. I expect to publish a fuller calendar of library events then. Meanwhile I wish happy and healthy holidays to all of you and your families.



THE RILA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE
ITS PROGRAM FOR 1980
by David Green

RILA's Government Relations Committee has attempted to take a good, hard look at itself, its service to the Association and its overall effectiveness in working with legislators to have the Association's proposed legislation acted upon by the General Assembly.

While the Committee sees that it has performed well in getting the Association recognized at the State House, it must admit that it has not done a very good job involving the RILA membership in the legislative program. The Committee has worked hard to let legislators know of libraries' needs on a broad, statewide level but it has not impressed upon the legislators what additional state funding would mean for the libraries in *their* districts. Moreover, the Committee has not kept the membership up to date on legislative activities as they were happening. The Committee never rallied the forces within the Association when hearings or floor votes were to take place, nor did it ask librarians to simply call their legislators to tell them how increased state funding would be used in *their* library. In other words, no mechanism was set up by the Association through which librarians could receive up-to-date information about legislation, and there

has been no mechanism for using grassroot support bases to show legislators that their library needs their help.

Over the summer months the Government Relations Committee met to draw up a plan that would improve communication among the membership and with the legislators. It was decided that a go-between was needed; someone who could inform the legislators about RILA's legislation (i.e. library needs), inform the membership as to what actions the Government Relations Committee was undertaking, what the legislators were thinking, and when and in what form individual members should take action.

In response to the need for a go-between, Jacqueline Hess was hired in October as RILA's Legislation Information Assistant. She will undertake the task of keeping all parties in the legislative process informed and up-to-date. She will be ready to help individual librarians communicate with their legislators. Most importantly, Jacqueline Hess will help us sell our legislative package.

Please notice that "help us sell" is underlined. This must be stressed because it is the Government Relations Committee's view that only the city and town librarians in Rhode Island can truly impress their local legislators by showing them their library's individual needs. Jacqueline Hess has not been hired as a lobbyist but rather as someone who will assist individual librarians in communicating with their legislators.

The first step in the opening of librarian/legislator communication will be a Legislative Night at the library during the month of January (Please see detailed article about this function in this issue). This function, to be held in as many libraries as possible, will kick off our legislative campaign. It will be librarians' first opportunity to talk to legislators during the 1980 Session of the General Assembly.

During the legislative session Jacqueline Hess or a member of the Government Relations Committee will continuously keep librarians informed about RILA's legislative campaign through a newsletter or over the telephone. In this way, RILA will have an informed membership prepared to take action when Committee hearings take place or legislation is up for a vote.

As far as the legislative package is concerned, the Government Relations Committee along with the RILA Executive Board is studying RILA's past legislative packages, the resolutions

from the Governor's Conference as well as future needs to determine just what RILA will present as this year's legislative package. Discussions have revolved around a two pronged approach to legislation: 1) dealing with the current laws to gain increased funding with grassroots needs as rationale for the increase and 2) the introduction of legislation that would reflect the needs to revamp state library funding laws. This second approach would address such issues as the instability of per capita funding, the needs for access to library resources and the delivery of those resources, the idea that like other social institutions, libraries must be able to keep up with changing technologies and advanced social research, and that a library should be revered as an educational institution.

As far as requests for increased funding through the State grant-in-aid and Interrelated Library System are concerned, it is important to understand that the difference between this year's campaign and those of years past is that this year RILA is asking each individual library to take part in the campaign by communicating to each city or town's legislator how state funds will be used to maintain or improve service. This grassroots approach is a fundamental change in the approach RILA has used to have its legislative package passed. The Government Relations Committee will continue to make RILA visible and heard in the State House but now it will have the support of the local librarians with each legislator understanding his or her library's specific needs.

During the month of December the Government Relations Committee will present a legislative package to the RILA Executive Board. Upon passage by the Board, the Committee will solicit sponsors among the legislators. As all this comes about the membership will be kept up-to-date on the progress of the legislative package through the Bulletin, the newsletter and over the phone. The Government Relations Committee wants to involve as many libraries and librarians as possible in this campaign. Each library and librarian has a small part to contribute in RILA's legislative campaign. If every city and town library becomes involved with its legislators their small part will make all the difference in the big whole of statewide funding.



INTRODUCING JACQUELINE HESS, RILA'S LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION ASSISTANT

by David Green

On October 29, 1979, the RILA Executive Board appointed Jacqueline Hess the Association's Legislative Information Assistant.

Jacqueline Hess's background and experience includes a BA in Political Science from George Washington University with additional study at the University of Dijon in France, and at Eisenhower College. She has worked as Research Director for the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations, as Research Director and Security Officer for the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Intelligence and as a Legislative Assistant for Congressman Parren J. Mitchell.

Now living in Middletown, RI, Jacqueline Hess will be responsible as Legislative Information Assistant to the RILA President. She will act as a liaison among the RILA Government Relations Committee, RILA's Legislative sponsors and the General Assembly. Part of her duties will be to contact the library community when action is needed by them on pending legislation. She will also publish a newsletter on the progress of library legislation during the legislative session.

RILA is most fortunate to have a woman of Jacqueline Hess's professional calibre as its Legislative Information Assistant. Her knowledge of legislative affairs, her research and organizational abilities and her optimism have inspired the RILA Executive Board and Government Relations Committee. Most impressive is her creative approach to packaging our legislation in terms of library's needs. Library directors will probably be hearing from her soon concerning RILA legislative program.





THE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND LEGISLATION

by David Green

The Government Relations Committee's concern with legislation falls into several categories. These categories are:

Appropriation Legislation - proposed legislation for increased funding to libraries on the State level. This would include increases in the State Grant-in-Aid to Free Libraries, the Interrelated Library System, the Principal Public Library and Special Research Centers laws; proposed legislation for new funding legislation (e.g. a bill to establish the R.I. Library Film Cooperative in state law and to fund it); amendments to the Governor's budget for any budget line in the DSLS budget.

Authorization Legislation - proposed legislation for setting up a new system or formula for State funding to libraries.

Library Legislation that is not related to funding - this would be legislation that would directly affect or involve libraries in State programs. Examples here might be proposed legislation requiring State agencies to send all government documents to the State Library and having the State Library distribute these documents to libraries designated as State document depositories or proposed legislation that would involve libraries with the Public Utilities Commission in the planning and development of cable t.v. stations.

Legislation that indirectly affects libraries - legislation of this type would include anti-obscenity legislation, open records and privacy legislation, vandalism to public buildings etc. This is the kind of legislation that RILA might not necessarily sponsor but that RILA would want to take a position on either through a position paper or testimony at a hearing.

The Government Relations Committee solicits suggestions for legislation the Association should sponsor or legislation it should follow. Members should contact Chairperson David Green at 739-2278 with their suggestions.



LEGISLATIVE NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

by Jacqueline Hess

At its November 26th meeting, R.I.L.A.'s Government Relations Committee voted to kick off its 1980 legislative program with a state-wide "Legislative Night at the Library." In so doing, the Committee elaborated on an idea originally proposed by Jane Lemos of the Tiverton Public Library.

The purpose of "Legislative Night at the Library" is to bring together, at the library, local Senators and Representatives and leading citizens of the community, so that the librarian, in coordination with a representative of the Government Relations Committee, can lead them in a discussion of the library's specific needs and of RILA's state-wide legislative platform.

In its discussion of "Legislative Night," the Committee stressed the need for flexibility in the program, so that each library might adapt the basic idea to its individual situation. It was decided that librarians should be encouraged to make the evening as social or as business-oriented as they feel would be comfortable and appropriate to their circumstances.

In order to launch an effective publicity campaign for the program, it was necessary that the Committee designate a period throughout which the program will run. It was not deemed possible to follow the steps of West Virginia in having a single state-wide night. The Committee therefore decided on the greater flexibility of a two-week period and selected the weeks of January 7, 1980, through January 18, 1980. By that time, RILA's Executive Board will have endorsed a legislative package and a member of the Government Relations Committee will be available to every library on its Legislative Night to fully explain the details of the package.

While the Committee would like to stress the entirely voluntary nature of the program, it is hoped that librarians will recognize this as an opportunity to provide a great service to their communities, their local representatives and, most importantly, to their libraries and themselves.

The Committee asked me, as RILA's new legislative consultant, to organize the campaign. Thus far the response from both librarians and local Senators and Representatives has been good. For further information about Legislative Night call me at 846-5787, or David Green, Government Relations Committee Chairman, at 739-2278.



CALENDAR

The RILA Calendar is maintained by RILA's Continuing Education Committee. If you have a date for any event of library/media interest, please telephone it to Pat Bisshopp, 438-9500, or mail it to her at Meeting Street School, 667 Waterman Ave., E. Providence, RI 02914. All meetings listed here are open to interested members of the library community, except as noted.

- Dec. 12 "Films for Adults," Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative, Warwick Public Library
- Dec. 19 Young Adult Roundtable, "Biographies," Rumford Branch, East Providence Public Library, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

1980

- Jan. 3 RILA Executive Board Meeting, William Hall Library, Cranston Public Library, 2:00 p.m.
- Jan. 7 Cooperative Juvenile Book Review, "Programming for Children with Special Needs," Providence Public Library, 9:00a.m. - 12 noon
- Jan. 8 Adult Book Meeting, "Ephemeral Materials," Pawtucket Public Library, 10:00a.m.
- Jan. 9 "Films for Children," Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative, Warwick Public Library
- Jan. 20-26 American Library Association Midwinter Meeting, Chicago
- Jan. 24 Young Adult Roundtable, "Health, Fitness, and Beauty," Kingston Free Library, 9:30-11:30 a.m.





RILA SRRT HOTLINE

The RILA Bulletin editors ask local library employers in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut to send us news of upcoming openings at any level in their libraries. There is no advertising fee. Write or call Barbara Cohen, Adams Library, Rhode Island College, Providence, R.I. 02908. Telephone 401-456-8225.

Job-seekers desiring a copy of the most recent monthly Jobline may obtain one by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the SRRT coordinator: Marcia Hershoff, Woonsocket Harris Public Library, Woonsocket, RI 02895. In order for a job notice to appear in the Bulletin, it must be received before the 15th of the preceding month.

University of Mass., Head, Monographic Section, Acquisitions Dept. To oversee searching, vendor selection, ordering, receiving, and claiming; and to train and supervise 6 full-time staff plus student assistants. Required: ALA-accredited MLS; working knowledge of one or more foreign languages. Experience in acquisitions-related work and experience with automated system preferred. Send resume and salary requirements to: Richard F. MacDonald, Business and Personnel Manager, University of Massachusetts Library, Amherst, MA 01003 (NYT Nov 25).

Warner-Eddison Associates, Inc., Manager of new business/marketing information facility to open soon. Contact: Alice Warner, Warner-Eddison Associates, Inc., 186 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge, MA 02138 (LJ Hotline Nov 19)

West Hartford, CT Public Library, Reference/AV Librarian Seeking an enterprising reference librarian with MLS and background in AV and video. Salary: \$14,119. Send resume and references to: Denis Lorenz, West Hartford Public Library, 20 South Main St., West Hartford, CT 06107 (LJ Hotline Nov 5)

University of New Haven, Technical Services Librarian To manage acquisition and cataloging of monographs and serials. Required: ALA-accredited MLS; 3 yrs cataloging experience in academic library using LC; knowledge of ordering procedure; supervisory experience on professional level. Salary to \$17,040. Send resume and names of 3 references by January 1, 1980 to: Eric Johnson, Chairperson, Search Committee, University of New Haven Library, PO Box 1306, New Haven, CT 06505 (Chron Nov 5)

Western CT State College, Dean of Library Services Reports to the Associate Dean for Educational Services. Responsible for coordination of personnel, activities and facilities, including library education and staff development,

budget preparation, inter-library cooperation, and collection growth in library of 130,000 volumes and staff of 9 professionals. Required: 3-5 years broadly based administrative experience, including fiscal and personnel management in academic library; knowledge of automation, networks, instructional technology and resource sharing; ALA accredited MLS Doctorate desirable. Send application, resume and 3 references by December 31 to: Chairperson, Search Committee for Director of Library Services, Western CT State College, 181 White Street, Danbury CT 06810.

Northeastern University Catalog Librarian To do cataloging via OCLC using LC classification in assigned subject areas including reclassification. Answer questions a few hours weekly. Required: MLS experience in preparation of catalog copy and input at terminal desirable. Salary: \$11,500 minimum. Send resume to Robert G. Murray, Catalog Dept., 12 Dodge Street, Northeastern University Library, Boston, MA 02115 (Chron Nov 13)

University of CT, Serials Cataloger Required: ALA accredited MLS; sound knowledge of serials and serials cataloging; 2 European languages; and automated cataloging, preferably OCLC. Initial salary in range of \$14,500-\$16,500. Send resume by December 30 to: Library Personnel Officer, University of CT Library, Storrs, CT 06268 (Chron Nov 13)

Central Maine Medical Center, Library Project Coordinator To implement a traveling on-line searching service. Requires travel within a fifty mile radius. Required: MLS; 3-5 yrs professional experience, excellent communication skills, leadership ability, and effective public relations skills. Medical reference experience and/or on-line searching experience preferred. Participation in cooperative library programs and familiarity with grant administration desirable. Send resume to: Personnel Dept., Central Maine Medical Center, 300 Main Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240 (Prov Journal Nov 25)

Clark University, Map and Geography Librarian Required: ALA accredited MLS; academic background in geography, cartography, or related areas; and experience in map librarianship. Send resume and 3 letters of reference by Dec. 20 to: Lawrence Lewis, Acting Director, Graduate School of Geography, Clark University, 950 Main St., Worcester, MA 01610 (Globe Nov 25)

Director, State Library Services, State of Rhode Island Cabinet position, appointed by Governor, to direct State Department with staff of approximately 25, with responsibility for promotion of state-wide library services through the Cooperative Interrelated Library System. MLS from accredited library school and minimum five years experience in library administration required. Salary subject to negotiation depending on experience (range \$27,000 to low \$30,000). Please send resume and three references before February 20, 1980, to: Dr. Victoria Lederberg, Chairman, Search Committee, c/o Governor's Office, Room 124, State house, Providence RI 02903.



RILA 1979 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 5 and 6, 1979

The 1979 RILA Annual Conference offered a good solid program of "food for thought" for the coming year. A record 370 people came to attend the Conference, causing mingled joy and consternation at the registration table. A conference committee member raced out to buy more name tags and the conference programs ran out.

For me personally, I was frustrated by missing some of the highlights I had been looking forward to: Speaker Dorothy Broderick's rousing style, and UNICOM's Apple Computer which they have been promising in their back cover Bulletin ad. On the other hand, I was surprised and delighted by the energy and strength of character in the people I met: trustees, librarians of all specialties, exhibitors, prospective affiliates, and a new specialist in our circles - a legislative consultant. I hope we can coordinate this energy in the coming year to achieve more for Rhode Island libraries than we have for years. The time is right. We have capable professionals and we are about to see the rise of a "grass-roots" support group in Citizens for Rhode Island Libraries, Inc. We have the mandate for action in the Governor's Conference Resolutions. Let's see what we can achieve. Following are some reports on programs at the Annual Conference. J.P.

CHANGING LIFE STYLES AND PERSONNEL PROGRAMS

In a rather basic, textbook approach to personnel and administration, Ms. Sheila Creth (Assistant Director of University of Connecticut's library) focused on how recent social changes have affected employment statistics in this country. Ms. Creth first discussed some of the major changes that have affected the representation of women on the work force, emphasizing the following: changes in the family unit brought about by alternative living arrangements and economic necessity, increased educational opportunities for women, and the impact

of the women's movement.

She then discussed how these changes have affected employment situations in the country, emphasizing federal legislation in the following areas:

- 1) laws concerning what types of interview questions are permissible,
- 2) laws concerning the protection of pregnant women in terms of benefits and disability payments for maternal related absences from work,
- 3) HEW guidelines which say that a place of employment cannot reject a candidate on the basis of a relative already working there, and
- 4) laws concerning the privacy of individuals and their right to employment regardless of their life styles.

Also discussed were changes within the working environment which have facilitated the employment of women, specifically: flexible scheduling to allow the management of both home and job responsibilities, part-time employment opportunities, job sharing, and extra benefits to pregnant women and people wishing to have sex changes.

Some of the questions raised by the audience revolved around the benefits of job sharing and flexible scheduling to the employer and the employee, and around the problem of lack of discrimination turning into favoritism. Although the information that Ms. Creth presented was too basic to be of much value to the audience, the presentation was well done, and the ensuing discussions were stimulating.

- Shelley Schlessinger

OCLC MEETING

A generally favorable but realistic presentation of OCLC use in facilitating interlibrary loans was given by two librarians who have had extensive day-to-day experience using the new subsystem. Kathleen Gunning is the Head of Reference and Information Services at Brown University Library, and Rose Harrison is Interlibrary Loan Librarian at the Connecticut State Library.

Ms. Gunning began the session by explaining some of the nitty-gritty of computer operation in the three modes of the ILL subsystem: the union catalog, which displays in code those libraries that own the book in question, the transaction file, which allows one to communicate requests and responses, and the message

waiting file, which displays the status of the library's requests. Photocopy handouts of simulated terminal screens illustrated the operations. They also illustrated the types of information that the operator enters in the terminal. The fact that this information is the standard facts and basic English that we would use in any standard ILL form helped dispel some of the fears many of us have of computers and their esoteric language.

Rose Harrison discussed the Connecticut State Library's experience as a test library for the OCLC ILL subsystem and compared the experience to the library's previous ILL operations. Some of their problems with the new system took care of themselves. They feared the library would be overwhelmed with requests and would be unable to keep up with the paperwork. That deluge of requests never came to pass. Another fear concerned the computer's lack of statistics-keeping ability but Ms. Harrison concluded that the extensive files and records many of us insist on are often unnecessary. Some problems did have to be dealt with - the State Library found that when it borrowed out of state books for the local Connecticut libraries, that local library, thinking the state agency owned the book, treated it as a long-term loan - the agency thus had difficulty returning books on time. This problem was somewhat ameliorated by indicating on the book and form that the local library should return the book directly to the out-of-state lender. Ms. Harrison also found that a reorganization of personnel duties was necessary to handle the different work flow. Some problems however have yet to be dealt with - these include the ILL fees which the agency has been assuming for the local libraries. In general however, Ms. Harrison as well as Ms. Gunning, were pleased with the efficiency and low cost of the OCLC ILL subsystem.

- Sheila Carlson

ANGLO-AMERICAN CATALOGING RULES II WORKSHOP

The workshop on AACR2 was attended by approximately 75 persons. The workshop investigated some of the differences between AACR1 and AACR2, and introduced some of the basic principles of AACR2. Sandy Gallup and Barbara Gates spoke on the background, development, rationale and philosophy behind AACR2. The workshop consisted of three presentations: description rules conducted by Cecelia Dulik; access points conducted by Marguerite Horn; and form of entry conducted by Barbara Gates.

- Tim McAdam

ACCESS TO CENSUS AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PUBLICATIONS

Judith Cohen, Data User Services Officer at the Census Bureau's Boston Regional Office, and Raimond Meerbach, Department of Commerce's Trade Specialist in Providence, brought Rhode Island librarians the bad news - access to Census and Department of Commerce information is not easy - and the good news - they are there to help us. Their presentation, sponsored by the SLA/RI Chapter, showed just how good the good news can be.

Ms. Cohen immediately dispelled fear of the run-away phone bill with her first offer: call her office (617-233-0668), ask your question, and leave your number. She will return your call. Also local help is on the way: the Census Bureau's new State Data Center Program will bring us a new information center in Providence soon, through the cooperation of the Bureau and the RI Statewide Planning Program. Presently, census tape computer services are available through the Summary Tape Processing Center at Brown University, and federal depository libraries provide assistance in using the printed census reports they receive. Ms. Cohen's presentation helped to untangle the maze of demographic and economic statistical sources the Bureau has to offer, described helpful guides and manuals, outlined an orderly reference strategy for census questions, and whetted some appetites for an all-day census workshop to be held in Providence, March 13, 1980, sponsored by the RI Council for Community Services in cooperation with SLA/RI.

Mr. Meerbach also opened with his address (1 Weybosset Hill), phone number (528-4482 or 277-2601), and sincere offer of assistance. The primary information mission of his office is to help promote the growth of US industry and trade. Current emphasis is on international trade, so foreign market information is the focus of conferences, seminars, and publications they sponsor. Mr. Meerbach described Commerce Department publications on domestic trade as well, however, including various market guides, economic indicators, and a bibliography of selected publications to aid business and industry.

- Judith Pontarelli

RILA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

President Kathleen Gunning capably chaired the RILA Annual Business Meeting. First business was honor to Peg Deignan for her long and distinguished career of service in Rhode Island libraries. Jewel Drickamer was also honored, but in absentia.

Louise Dolan reported on the activity of the Governor's Search Committee for a new Director for the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services. A nationwide search is planned but at that date was not activated. Representative Victoria Lederberg chairs the Search Committee.

A request for affiliate status with RILA by the newly formed Rhode Island Chapter of the ALA Junior Members Roundtable has required attention to RILA's Constitution. The Constitution does not really provide for affiliates in its present form. Discussion from the floor supported constitutional change to allow for affiliates. Members interested in working on the Constitution should speak to Wendy Lougee at Brown University Libraries, 863-2167. She is the new chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

RILA's newest officer was introduced at the Business Meeting. She is Jacqueline Hess, RILA Legislative Information Assistant. She has been hired to be the liaison officer between our Association and the Rhode Island General Assembly. She will monitor the progress of library-related legislation and inform legislators of our position. In general she will help us to be better advocates for library needs.

Roberta Cairns spoke briefly on the new support group, Citizens for Rhode Island Libraries, Inc. Their goal is to promote quality library service. They are primarily a citizens' group - most of their officers and committee chairmen are not librarians. They are aiming for a membership of 10,000 people by May 1980, beginning their drive with a State House reception on November 28. Their demonstration of interest in library service should be instrumental in getting financial support from the state government.

Dick Olsen reported on the work of the ad hoc Committee on the Organization of Library Services at the State Level in Rhode Island, sponsored by the Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries (CRIARL). Their purpose is to increase awareness in the Rhode Island Library community of the "umbrella" Resolution - the Governor's Conference Resolution to group library and archives functions at the state level. The Committee is planning a theme issue for the RILA Bulletin in spring 1980. (Hey, guys, can we call you the Umbrella Committee for short?)

Another instrumental committee reported on work: the State Advisory Council on Libraries' Subcommittee on a Five Year Plan for Rhode Island. The Subcommittee provides advice to the Department of State Library Services on preparing this

Five Year Plan required by the U.S. Department of Education for receiving federal funding for library programs. Herman Rose inquired whether the Subcommittee would hold a public hearing, but no definite answer was made.

New officers for 1979-80 were introduced:

Louise Blalock Dolan	President
Beth Perry	Vice President/President Elect
Elliot Chesebrough	Secretary
Elizabeth Bourne	Treasurer
Thomas Surprenant	Member-at-Large

Under new business, Kathleen Paroline introduced a motion that RILA adopt the ALA supported statement on "Free Access to Libraries for Minors." L.B. Woods stated, in support of the document, that a position against censorship is the soundest position a librarian can take. As soon as a librarian agrees to censor material, he or she will quickly be criticized for making the wrong choice of what to censor. After some concern that the time remaining was too short to consider the motion adequately, it was brought to vote, and passed.
The text of the document follows. -J.P.

FREE ACCESS TO LIBRARIES FOR MINORS
An interpretation of the "Library Bill of Rights"
Adopted by RILA, November 1979

Some library procedures and practices effectively deny minors access to certain services and materials available to adults. Such procedures and practices are not in accord with the "Library Bill of Rights" and are opposed by the American Library Association.

Restrictions take a variety of forms, including, among others, restricted reading rooms for adult use only, library cards limiting circulation of some materials to adults only, closed collections for adult use only, and interlibrary loan service for adult use only.

All limitations in minors' access to library materials and services violate Article 5 of the "Library Bill of Rights" which states, "The rights of an individual to the use of a library should not be denied or abridged because of his age...." Limiting access to some services and materials to only adults abridges the use of libraries for minors. "Use of the library" includes use of, and access to, all library materials and services.

Restrictions are often initiated under the assumption that certain materials are "harmful" to minors, or in an effort to

avoid controversy with parents who might think so. The librarian who would restrict the access of minors to materials and services because of actual or suspected parental objection should bear in mind that he is not *in loco parentis* in his position as librarian. Individual intellectual levels and family backgrounds are significant factors not accommodated by a uniform policy based upon age.

In today's world, children are exposed to adult life much earlier than in the past. They read materials and view a variety of media on the adult level at home and elsewhere. Current emphasis upon early childhood education has also increased opportunities for young people to learn and to have access to materials, and has decreased the validity of using chronological age as an index to the use of libraries. The period of time during which children are interested in reading materials specifically designed for them grows steadily shorter, and librarians must recognize and adjust to this change if they wish to maintain the patronage of young people.

The American Library Association holds that it is the parent- and only the parent - who may restrict his children- and only his children - from access to library materials and services. The parent who would rather his child did not have access to certain materials should so advise the child.

The work "age" was incorporated into Article 5 of the "Library Bill of Rights" as a direct result of a preconference entitled "Intellectual Freedom and the Teenager," held in San Francisco in June 1967. One recommendation of the preconference participants was "that free access to all books in a library collection be granted to young people." The preconference generally concluded that young people are entitled to the same access to libraries and to the materials in libraries as are adults and that materials selection should not be diluted on that account.

This does not mean, for instance, that issuing different types of borrowers' cards to minors and adults is, *per se*, contrary to the "Library Bill of Rights." If such practices are used for purposes of gathering statistics, the various kinds of cards carry no implicit or explicit limitations on access to materials and services. Neither does it mean that maintaining separate children's collections is a violation of the "Library Bill of Rights," provided that no patron is restricted to the use of only certain collections.

The Association's position does not preclude isolating certain materials for legitimate protection of irreplaceable or

very costly works from careless use. Such "restricted-use" areas as rare book rooms are appropriate if the materials so classified are genuinely rare, and not merely controversial.

Unrestrictive selection policies, developed with care for principles of intellectual freedom and the "Library Bill of Rights," should not be vitiated by administrative practices which restrict minors to the use of only part of a library's collections and services.



RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY:
ITS ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES
by Zofia Sywak, PhD

In 1976 the Rhode Island State Historical Records Advisory Board was formed to oversee the preservation of the historical records of the State. The Board ascertained that, to preserve historic records, it would first have to identify these records, their extent and their physical condition. To this end, the Board initiated the Rhode Island Historical Records Survey Project.

The Historical Records Survey Project is funded jointly by a grant from the National Historical Publication and Records Commission and the State of Rhode Island. The program was initiated in July 1979 with the hiring of Dr. Zofia Sywak to set up and direct the survey. The other staff members are Christine Chapman La Fauci, assistant archivist, and Mary Ryan Fallon, secretary.

Dr. Sywak is a professional archivist. Before accepting this position, she was the archivist at the James A. Kelly Institute for Local Historical Studies at St. Francis College in Brooklyn. She was also archivist at the New Haven Colony Historical Society in New Haven, Connecticut, where she acquired most of her archival experience. While in Brooklyn, Dr. Sywak helped organize a highly successful archives workshop which was sponsored by NETHC, and spoke on processing and description during that workshop. At the last Society of American Archivists Annual Conference, she presented a paper pertaining to historical societies and the use of public relations to acquire additional funding.

Christine Chapman La Fauci was previously associated with the Governor's office as librarian and was responsible for establishing and maintaining the master record files. Mary Ryan Fallon was coordinator for the Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services which laid the groundwork for Rhode Island's participation in the White House Conference.

The survey will attempt to identify all records of historic value generated by and existing within the State at the time of the actual survey. By historic records we mean those records which are maintained permanently either because it is mandated by legislation or because a given department has decided to retain them as a permanent documentation of its history or activities.

The survey is divided into three phases. Phase I pertains to all the records located in the various departments, agencies and commissions of state government. Phase II will be concerned with the records located in the thirty-nine cities and towns of Rhode Island. During Phase III, the survey will address itself to records housed in both public and private repositories such as libraries, educational institutions, historical societies, museums, archives and record centers.

The identification of historic records in the State of Rhode Island is of vital concern not only to the various entities of state and municipal government but also to historians, scholars, genealogists and to all Rhode Islanders.

The survey will indentify the various groups of records such as court cases, fiscal reports, minutes of meetings, correspondence, etc. It will note the inclusive dates of each group of records, the general characteristics of the information contained in the group of records, the physical condition of the records and the quantity involved. Since records are described by groups only, specific personal or subjective data is not extracted.

The goal of the survey is to point out the need to preserve records of historic value and to produce a guide to these records. Once the survey is completed, one will be able to locate all existing records pertaining to a specific locality, event or activity, even if said documentation is scattered among private university archives, local historical societies, the local town halls and the State Archives.

The information collected will be available to anyone wishing to use it. We hope that the survey will serve to advance the cause of history in Rhode Island, since our responsibility is to preserve the records of the past so that we may approach the present and the future with the perspective that only history can give us.

We would appreciate hearing from you if you have any questions pertaining to the survey or if you are aware of researchers trying to locate specific original material on Rhode Island. You may reach us by calling 401-277-3417 or by contacting the State Archives.

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