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Rhode Island Library Association

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# Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin



**Membership Directory**

**January 1980**

150 EMPIRE STREET

Indexed in Current Awareness  
Library Literature

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

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## 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  $\frac{1}{4}$  page, \$35 per  $\frac{1}{2}$  page, and \$50 per full page. Call the advertising manager for further information.

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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



By now you are expecting an announcement in this column of who is the next RILA Bulletin Editor. I hate to tell you, but I am just as much in the dark as you are. Half a dozen people have expressed interest in taking on the editorship, thought seriously about it..... and decided it is too much work to fit into their present schedules. I think we must consider cutting down the size of the Bulletin so that someone is willing to edit it.

Now I appeal to you, the membership, to do something. Many people have said how much they enjoy getting the Bulletin. If you want to see it continue, take a look around your library and the meetings you go to, and think who would make a capable editor. Call or send me a note with your recommendation. Directors, especially, who among your staff would you promote but you have no suitable opening? Their extra talents would give life to the Bulletin. Please send recommendations by February 1st. I want a few months to work with the next editor before I resign June 1st.

This is our annual Membership Issue, capably assembled by the Membership Committee chaired by Connie Lachowicz. I am glad to see membership is up. We have moved forward the Membership Directory from May to January with the aim of providing a more current list. This time the Directory has some charming illustrations by Laurie Mollicone, on the staff at the Department of State Library Services. Also in this issue is a thoughtful report on the White House Conference on Library and Information Services by RILA's Observer Dan Bergen.

Cover art is by Edward Hopper, an etching entitled The Lighthouse (Maine Coast), 1923.



# MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

To the Membership:

We are pleased to present to you as a resource for you during the next year the fourth annual Membership Directory of the Association to start the New Year off right.

Since the membership files provide the information for this directory, we ask you to check your entry as it appears in the directory and please notify the Committee of any changes when renewing your membership for 1980-81.

Membership figures as of December 6, 1979 include 541 personal memberships and 30 institutions for a total of 571. Compared to 1978-79 this represents an overall increase of 29. By type of library or affiliation, personal membership can be divided into the following categories:

Public	- 171	School	- 40
Academic	- 107	Student	- 31
Special	- 62	Unemployed	- 15
Trustee	- 53	Other	- 9
Retired	- 46	Honorary	- 7

Institutional memberships by type of library are as follows:

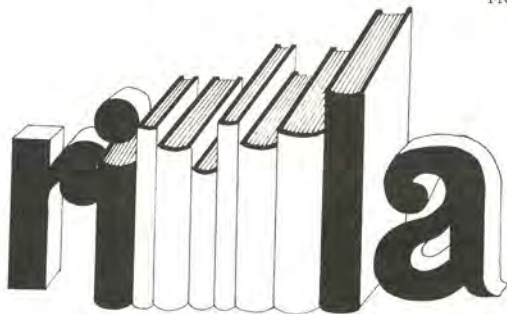
Public	- 22	Academic	- 2
Special	- 5	School	- 1

RILA also welcomes 123 new members to its ranks.

The Committee thanks you for your continued support of RILA and wishes you the best in 1980.

Membership Committee

Elizabeth Gates Kesler  
Judith Meister  
Stewart R. Schneider  
Connie Lachowicz, Chairperson





- ABBOTT, DOROTHY M. 942 Narragansett Blvd. Providence, R.I.  
02905, Retired, 467-7293-h
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Senior Reference Librarian
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Brown Univ. Sciences Lib., 863-2686, Lib. Tech. Asst.
- ANDERSON, KATHRYN 223 Tanglewood Dr., E. Greenwich, R.I.  
02818, Warwick Public Library, 739-5440, Head of  
Technical Services
- ANDO, BARBARA RFD 2, Little Pond Rd., Woodstock, Conn. 06821  
N. Prov. Union Free Library, 231-5300, Prog. Coord.
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Reference Librarian
- ANDREWS, CONSTANCE H. Osprey Rd., Matunuck, R.I. 02879, Prov.  
Public Library, 521-7722, Dept. Head, Periodicals,  
Microfilm

---

ABBREVIATIONS: h = home telephone number; p.t. = part-time  
employment; (v) = volunteer; \* = new member

ANDREWS, ELLIOTT F. State Library, State House, Providence,  
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02840, Naval War College, 841-4386, Lib. Technician

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URI Lib., Pell Marine Science, 789-7435, Asst. Libn.

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BEEBE, EMMA D. 1033 Boston Neck Rd., North Kingstown, R.I.  
02852, Cumberland Public Lib., 724-8470, Director

BEDIGIAN, DEENA SIVART, Museum Lib./Resource Ctr., Park  
Museum, Roger Williams Park, Prov., R.I. 02905,  
941-5640, Librarian/Archivist/Researcher/Registrar

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BELL, JUDITH H. 11 Broad Rock Rd., Peace Dale, R.I. 02883,  
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783-4085, Librarian

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723-5350, Regional Reference Librarian

BERGEN, DANIEL P. 41 Highland Ave., Wakefield, R.I. 02879,  
Graduate Lib. School, URI, 792-2878 or 792-2947, Prof.

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BIGGS, JEAN H. 11 Briarwood Dr., Barrington, R.I. 02806,  
Barrington College, 246-1200, Music Cataloger (p.t.)

BILTCLIFFE, SR. MARY GEORGINA St. Matthew Convent, 1311  
Elmwood Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02910, St. Xavier  
Academy, Prov., 421-2515, x30, Media Specialist

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Island Interrelated Library System

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Cataloging Librarian

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02893, Robert H. Champlin Memorial Lib., 828-2825-h,  
Trustee



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 02907, 331-0446-h, Retired  
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 421-0042-h, Retired  
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 BUDLONG, DOROTHY W. 539 Lloyd Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906,  
 Retired  
 BUDLONG, JOAN 7789 Greenleaf Lane, Denver, Colorado 80221  
 BUILT, EMMA E. 369 Montgomery Ave., Apt. 9-M, Providence,  
 R.I. 02905, 461-4266-h, Honorary  
 BUNDY, ANNALEE M. Providence Public Library, 150 Empire St.,  
 Providence, R.I. 02903, 521-7722, Director  
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 E. Providence Public Library, 434-2719, Director  
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 Middletown High School, 846-7250, Librarian  
 CAMERON, LUCILLE W. Carpenter Rd., RFD 1, Hope, R.I. 02831,  
 URI Library, 792-2653, Ref./Bibliographer, Social Scs.  
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 \*CARNEVALE, MARIE R. 29 Pheasant Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02920,  
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 CARSON, JOSEPHINE R. 395 Spring St., Newport, R.I. 02840,  
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 CARTER, VIRGINIA A. 672 Flat River Rd., Coventry, R.I. 02816,  
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- \*CHARETTE, SUSAN 236 Greenville Rd., Woonsocket, R.I. 02985,  
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- CHASE, MILDRED F. Box 813, W. Dennis, Mass. 02670, Retired
- CHESEBROUGH, ELLIOTT RFD 103, Church St., Douglas, Mass.  
01516, Prov. Public Library, 521-7722, x228, Coordina-  
tor of Principal Public Library
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Department
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- COHEN, BARBARA James P. Adams Library, R.I. College, Prov.,  
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- COLLINS, CHARLES 210 Pleasant St., Rumford, R.I. 02916,  
E. Providence Public Library, Trustee
- COLLINS, SUSANNA A. 36 Castle Hill Rd., Pawcatuck, Conn.  
02891, Westerly Public Library, 596-2877, Asst. Dir.
- COMSTOCK, NED Rogers Free Library, Bristol, R.I. 02809,  
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- CONNER, VIRGINIA K. 19 Hawthorne Ave., E. Prov., R.I. 02914,  
E. Prov. Public Library, Fuller Br., 434-1136, Br.  
Librarian
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Industry & Science
- \*COPPOLA, HANNAH P. Bald Hill Farm, Douglas, Mass. 01516,  
Prov. Public Library, 521-7722, x212

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Pawtucket Public Library, 725-3714, Coord. of Adult  
Services
- \*CORY, CHARLOTTE S. St. Dunstan's Day School, 220 University  
Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906, St. Dunstan's Day  
School, School Librarian
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Public Library, 781-2450, Wm. Hall Librarian
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East Providence Public Library, Trustee
- COSTANZA, JOANNE 65 North Rd., Peace Dale, R.I. 02883,  
URI Library, Cataloger
- COULOMBE, DOMINIQUE 122 Whipple Ave., Barrington, R.I. 02806,  
Brown University, 863-2421, Lib. Asst. Spec., Also  
(Student - Simmons)
- COUPE, EVA 41 Potter St., Pawtucket, R.I. 02860, Central  
Falls Free Pub. Library, 723-6441, Asst. Librarian
- CRAGAN, ANNE F. 226 Kenyon Ave., E. Greenwich, R.I. 02818,  
Meadowbrook Farms School Lib. (E. Greenwich), 884-  
0150, School Librarian, also: Trustee, E. Greenwich  
Free Library (1977)
- CRANE, CAROLINE M. 207 Cole Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906,  
Prov. Public Library, Rochambeau Br., Retired
- CRANSTON, LINDA 99 Cattail Lane, N. Kingstown, R.I. 02852,  
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John Hay Lib. (Brown Univ.), 863-2146, Harris Collec-  
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- \*CULLINANE, JANE F. 138 Governor St., #10, Prov., R.I. 02906,  
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- D'ABATE, JANINA 12 Reservoir Ave., Johnston, R.I. 02919,  
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- D'AGUANNO, BRENDA Ms. 31 Hickory Lane, Greenville, R.I.  
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Librarian
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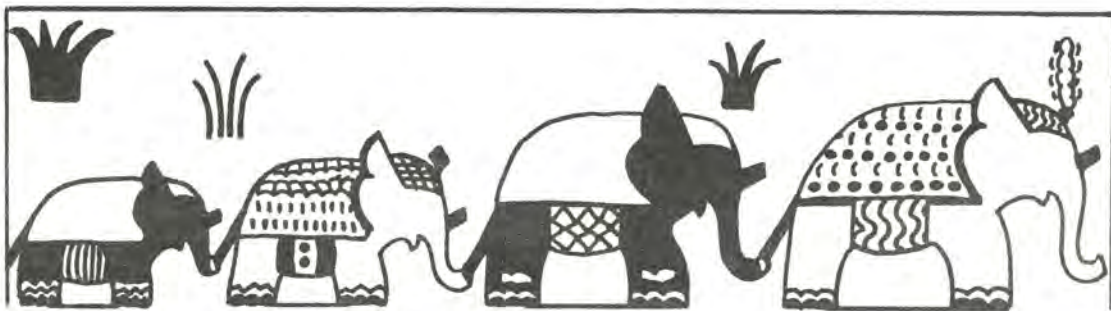
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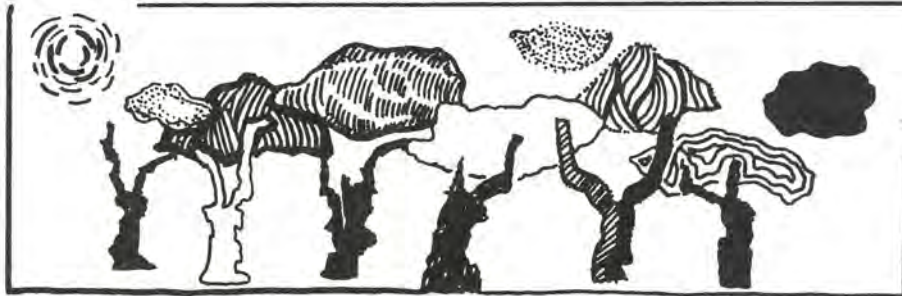
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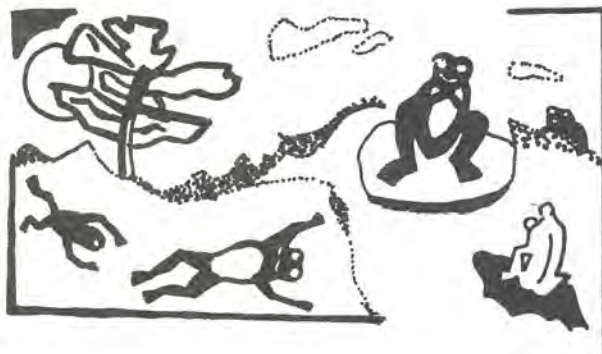
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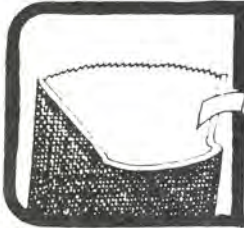
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THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE:  
WAS SOUTH DAKOTA RIGHT?

by Dan Bergen

*South Dakota, concerned that the White House Conference might be non-productive at best and counter-productive at worst, was the only state not represented in Washington, November 15-19, 1979. Was South Dakota right in its refusal to send a delegation? It would be dangerously premature to attempt to answer that question now. The proof will be in the pudding of Congressional and Presidential action and that may not occur, if indeed it occurs at all, for some months, perhaps years. It remains to be seen, moreover, precisely what energy the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science is prepared to direct toward the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Conference. For now at least, one is reduced to offering impressions and prognoses, and mine, God knows, are no better than the next person's. That said, here goes.*

It was my great honor, if not always pleasure, to serve as the Official Observer of the Rhode Island Library Association at the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. What struck the Observer almost immediately was the diversity, the incredible cultural, racial, and occupational variety represented in the delegations from the different states and territories. He knew then that the melting pot continued to fail in its mission, and that the United States, like Canada, remained a mosaic. What the Observer should have understood, but for some reason did not, was that this pluralism would make it extremely difficult for what amounted to a four-day assembly to speak with one voice, most especially in those complex matters, such as networking and access, which demanded a measure of precision and specificity. Having divined only the polyvocal character of the situation, the Observer plowed naively ahead.

The Conference embraced five major themes: Library and

Information Services for (1) Meeting Personal Needs; (2) Enhancing Lifelong Learning; (3) Improving Organizations and Professions; (4) Effectively Governing Our Society; and (5) Increasing International Understanding and Cooperation. It was said that these themes, which clearly transcend both type of library or information service and type of activity within library or information service, were developed by induction, by taking the resolutions that emerged from the state- and territorial-level conferences and then devising those larger categories under which they might most logically fit. That may well have been so, but the Observer suspected that those in charge had a far more strategic motive. If any small consensus was to be forged, he thought, clearly-related themes would be required, any number of which could be effectively addressed by a single resolution. The conveners were entirely correct in their anticipation. Convergence did occur, but at the expense of particularity. The resolutions which emerged from the Conference were largely innocuous, reaffirmations of very broad principles, clearly not the stuff of which an agenda for library and information services might be carefully constructed.

Each conferee was assigned a theme and asked to join one of a number of work groups discussing that theme. Each of the work groups treating a particular theme produced a set of resolutions. Those resolutions were, in turn, taken up and ordered in terms of their importance by much larger groups, called theme groups, which could be attended by any participant to whom that theme had been assigned. Finally, selected resolutions emerging from one or more of the five theme groups were considered at general sessions. The Observer had at first determined that he would hop about from one theme to another so as to take in as much as possible. He discovered soon enough that this would not work. The five themes comprehended 34 work groups, ranging from ten for Enhancing Lifelong Learning to four each for Improving Organizations and Professions and Increasing International Cooperation. The terrain was much too vast and he decided to stick, come what may, with that theme closest to his intellectual heart, Effectively Governing Society.



The Observer wandered quite randomly into a work group chaired by an engaging and admirably restrained librarian from Denver. It turned out that this restraint, in progressively short supply as one moved upward from work group to theme groups to general sessions, was what eventually saw her through. This work group consisted of about 20 lay and library delegates, perhaps a third of whom were members of minority groups and about half of whom were women. After an appropriate lapse of time, it hit the Observer that variations in knowledge, zeal, energy, personal deportment, loquaciousness, and axes to grind among the members of the group would ultimately make for very tough sailing. The range was just immense: from the urbane Commissioner of Education for the State of New York; the articulate psychologist from Jackson, Mississippi; and the decisive Director of the St. Louis Public Library, on the one hand, to the evangelical citizen devotee of libraries from rural Florida; the quietly realistic shopkeeper from Williston, North Dakota; and the perceptive Arizona housewife whose small village had no library whatever, on the other. The polarity which would come to bedevil the entire Conference was evident almost from the start. It would be the more knowledgeable, the professionals, the technocrats, and the bureaucrats, seeking in vain to converse with the less knowledgeable, those of a more populist, enthusiastic, and aggressive bent. After spending nearly nine hours talking at, and past, each other, the members of the work group endorsed a set of troublingly vague resolutions and agreed that only greater visibility within government and more money would lead to the improvement of library and information services.

The Observer does not wish to leave the impression that this tragedy (comedy?), played out within the generous confines of the Washington Hilton, lacked its more redeeming moments. There were good things: some learning (professionals from populists and populists from professionals); some gentle moments; some laughs; some sensitivity; even some recognition of the dignity and sincerity of those with whom a delegate might have debated. But there was also the unhappiness which the Observer, had his mind been in the proper gear, should have expected: the incivility; the egotism; the occasional outbursts of emotion which sent reason scurrying for cover; and, this hurt the Observer most, the hostility toward those alternates and observers who sought not to address the work group, but simply to speak with those friends who happened to be delegates. It was a shabby scene, particularly to one better acquainted with the more genteel ambience of the Rhode Island Governor's Conference on Library

and Information Services.

Real tensions developed in the work group attended by the Observer when the discussion advanced from more philosophic to more pragmatic considerations. He recalls most vividly the tough, well-prepared Californians (who said they were laid back?), three of whom were in the group, insisting, in a more populist than professional vein, that there ought to be a Cabinet-level Department of Library and Information Services. When the rather more sophisticated Commissioner of Education for the State of New York softly maintained that information was ubiquitous and that public policy affecting it could not readily be made in a single department, the response was immediate and clamorous. Education is also omnipresent, said the Californians, and do we not now have a Cabinet-level Department of Education in our Federal Government? Their point, however optimistic, if not unrealistic, it may have seemed to the professionals in the work group, was that few dreamed, even a decade ago, that there might ever be a Department of Education apart from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and that, at this time, promoting the creation of a Department of Library and Information Services was surely no more far-fetched than advocating a Department of Education might have been in the late 1960's. In a sense, the Observer said quietly to himself, the Californians were correct. Because there had never been one before, and may never be one again, the White House Conference constituted the critical moment, the time to pursue even those fantasies that seem most outlandish. Why not make the big push now, now while we have the ear of the President, the eyes of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and the undivided attention of a Joint Congressional Committee, chaired by our own Senator Claiborne Pell and Representative William D. Ford of Michigan? The Observer, his intellect to the contrary notwithstanding, was forced to plead nolo contendere.

The work group which the Observer observed considered several other questions, most of which, it turned out, were simultaneously being discussed by the bulk of the other 33 work groups. Examples abound. Should the Library of Congress be made a national library by law, a la the British Library or the Bibliotheque Nationale? Should there be established an Office of the Assistant Secretary for Library and Information Services in the newly-created Department of Education? What kinds of practical inroads might intellectual freedom make on

the secrecies presently practiced by government in the name of national security and by corporations in the names of competitive advantage and greater profit? What are the policy implications of the study bill for a National Library Act, recently introduced by Senators Jacob K. Javits of New York and Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, an act which would establish a National Library Agency responsible for furthering cooperation among all kinds of libraries and information services, but which is assigned the more restricted role of funding agency for public libraries? How important is hardware and software compatibility to equalizing citizen access to information? If library and information services should be neutral, objective, and dispassionate, must these services also assume the obligation of making available to the public information concerning the many and varied perspectives on each important issue of public policy? (Must the library that is a free market for ideas also be a soap box?) What does the centralizing impulse of the technology of communication, print as well as non-print, and the fact that ever fewer gatekeepers come to control what we read, see, and hear, come, in short, to structure our reality, mean for the possibility of that enlightened citizenship presupposed by democracy? These issues are exciting and the Observer could not help but be intrigued by them. Still, he was troubled by the ethereal, frighteningly vaporous, even cavalier way in which they were being discussed. He made this note to himself: "Do not play around when American democracy hangs in the balance."

Before taking up the resolutions considered at the final general session of the Conference, the Observer would like to comment on the general tenor of the speeches and deliberations it was his occasional pleasure, but all too often great distress, to audit. Among both speakers and discussants, there was a nearly monolithic emphasis on the importance of making information accessible to the public, intellectually as well as physically, on making information intelligible and cognitively digestible, not just available. However, with the notable exception of speeches by Major Owens and Daniel Boorstin, the Observer heard no discussion of the interpretive power and critical judgment that must be brought to bear upon information after it has been successfully consumed, if we are to have the intelligent individual decisions upon which our always fragile democracy so precariously depends. Nor, to his great discomfort, Watergate still abundantly fresh in his memory, did the Observer hear mention of values and norms, of the role of moral reason in the application of

information to political decision-making, whether at the more exalted levels of government or at the more humble level of the individual citizen. It may well be, of course, that interpretation, criticism, and moral reasoning are viewed by librarians, information scientists, and the lay promoters of library and information services as capacities whose nurturance need not actively concern librarianship. This judgment, however, renders librarianship strictly adjunctive, simply yet another ancillary to the educational process. The Observer was made horribly uncomfortable by this lack of attention to things so very near and dear to him. Misguided idealist that he is, he was most grateful to Owens and Boorstin for what they had to say.

Owens, a New York State senator and former member of the faculty at the School of Library Service, Columbia University, contended that the complexity of the problems which our nation faces and the absence of what he termed a satisfactory citizenship literacy place democracy in very real jeopardy. For Senator Owens, the literate citizen is one who has accurate information about the world, not the kind of disastrously inaccurate, even deliberately untruthful, information made available to the public during the Vietnam War, Watergate, and the more recent incident at Three Mile Island. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are not quite enough. A more positive interpretation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution would give those who can provide us with a more truthful picture of the world ready access to those powerful media of communication which can transmit that more truthful picture to large numbers of people. This reminded the Observer of a thesis argued over a dozen years ago in the Harvard Law Review by Jerome Barron. In his important article and in a later book, Freedom of the Press for Whom: The Right of Access to Mass Media (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1973), Professor Barron asserted that a public right of access to the mass media is packed into the First Amendment and that, until that right is effectively unpacked, the messages about the world which most of us receive were bound to remain profoundly defective.

At this juncture, the Observer was also reminded of the debates, particularly those published in The Federalist, concerning the foundation of an American democracy and how at least a few of the Founding Fathers wondered aloud whether democracy, an invention of the short-radius Greek city-state, could possibly work in a country of continental size. The solution, naturally enough, was to create a representative

democracy and to leave direct democracy to institutions such as the town meeting and to more massive devices such as the initiative, the referendum, and the recall. The public awareness generated by the vote on California's Proposition 13 and the more ready realization of the extraordinary power which special interests exercise over the behavior of legislative bodies has resulted in more than a little contemporary interest in the selective use of the techniques of direct democracy. The Observer could not avoid pondering how very important access to information and Owens' citizenship literacy would be if American democracy were to become more direct. Toward the end of his speech, Owens suggested the means by which a viable public information system might be erected. Why not tax, he asked, those commercial enterprises which profit mightily by using the scientific, technical, demographic, and other information generated by government. Government supported, in the final analysis, by the taxes paid by citizens, and use the funds thus realized to establish a first-rate information system for the public? The Observer thought this last proposal a tad simplistic and overdrawn, but did note that at least the populists in his audience stood to applaud Senator Owens.

Daniel Boorstin, the Librarian of Congress, addressed the final general session of the Conference. An announcement of his talk did not appear on the printed schedule and the Observer was led to the rather desperate conclusion that the Conference organizers suddenly realized that as the whole shebang wound to a close, those in attendance had somehow not yet heard from the nation's First Librarian. He, for one, was very pleased that Boorstin had been allowed to speak.

There were echoes and reverberations of Boorstin's many books, most especially the recent Republic of Technology, in the Librarian's provocative talk. Boorstin sought to distinguish information from knowledge, the former increasingly the domain of commercial vendors and the latter essentially the province of undernourished institutions such as colleges and universities, research centers, and libraries. He suggested that we have more than enough information, but are dangerously deficient in the area of knowledge. At this point, the Observer pulled from the depths of memory Archibald MacLeish's roughly equivalent comment: "The answers, we have all the answers, it is the questions that we do not have." For Boorstin, information is data, the news, the discrete fact, frequently of a temporal and highly ephemeral cast. Knowledge, on the other hand, is the synthesis of information, the consequence

of subjecting information to some higher-order patterning so that, in the end, understanding and meaning emerge. There is a variation of Gresham's Law, he observed, in which information, which is perishable, drives out knowledge which is more likely to endure. Society rather desperately needs, he argued, better interpretations of information, in sum, more good books. As Boorstin moved on, the Observer was reminded of an editorial which appeared in the Library Journal at about the time the speaker took office as Librarian of Congress. That editorial, etched indelibly in the brain of the Observer, suggested that librarians teach Boorstin, the nonlibrarian, about information while he, the maker of books, taught us about knowledge. As he contemplated the nearly two-foot stack of information he had acquired at the Conference, the Observer could only nod in rapt agreement.

As the resolutions produced by the work group attended by the Observer moved upward through the theme group to the general sessions, they were subjected to ruthless, sometimes arbitrary, editing and ordering. And, as discussion moved upward from work group to theme group to general session, it was exposed to progressively heavy-handed moderation and parliamentary judgment. United States Judge Abner J. Mikva, who presided over the opening general session, in the Observer's opinion, did tolerably well. Edmund M. Reggie, Executive Counsel to the Governor of Louisiana and moderator for the closing general session, was a disaster - hyperactive, authoritarian, frantic, disorganized, and just plain wrong on many of his rulings. During that crucial final session, at which the Conference resolutions were acted upon, decorum and civility evaporated, chaos and anarchy ensued, and the assembly became something of a rabble. The Observer could tolerate only about two hours of this scene and was then compelled first by his reason and then by his stomach to leave. It was perhaps suggestive of how things had gone that only about 480 of the 700 plus delegates to the first ever White House Conference on Library and Information Services even bothered to attend this final, anarchic general session.

What were some of the resolutions considered at the illfated final session? The Observer would refer here to just a few: The First Amendment and Public Issues; National Information Policy; the Expansion of Literacy Programs; Access; Special Constituencies (e.g., the physically and mentally disabled); Lifelong Learning; Networking (i.e., the concept of a national lending library and of national network

coordination by an Assistant Secretary for Library and Information Services in the Department of Education); Coordination and Cooperation between School and Public Libraries; Technology (i.e., the need for standards promoting compatibility between various kinds of computer and communications equipment); Public Awareness; and Federal International Communication and Accountability. The delegates did not adopt any kind of formula for the funding of libraries, opting instead for improved funding in general with additional subsidies for urban libraries, and for special kinds of library and information service. They endorsed the idea of a National Library Agency and the general principles embodied in the previously mentioned study bill introduced by Senators Javits and Kennedy. In addition, the Conference approved the development of improved information and referral services in public libraries. The delegates reacted most enthusiastically and virtually unanimously to a resolution calling for the creation of a new position, Assistant Secretary for Library and Information Services in the Department of Education. They were more negative about making the Library of Congress the center for a national network of library and information services.

The Observer did not get immediate word on the fate of a resolution by petition which called for a White House Conference on Library and Information Services every 10 years for the purpose of establishing national information goals and priorities. He suspects that it passed. Although he would confess to a small ambivalence on that particular resolution, the Observer was inclined to hope for its defeat. Not only is there little precedent for follow-on conferences in the annals of the various White House Conferences, there is the more serious question of whether the lay and library communities can possibly afford the outlay of time, energy, and money that would be required to support a Conference every decade.

As he winds his way to a close, the Observer would mention a miscellany of other events and happenings. There was the Conference Information Center, straight out of "Star Wars," where the delegates had on-line access to almost any kind of background information. The Observer was very much impressed with the arrangement wherein various kinds of information gathered by agencies of the Federal Government, demographic, commercial, and scientific, to cite a few examples, could be correlated and then displayed on maps in living color on a television screen. There was "The Library: A Place to Grow,"

an astonishing multi-media presentation of the Audiovisual Center at the University of Iowa which required fourteen different slide projectors. There was the extemporaneous address by President Jimmy Carter in which he recalled his regular use of and early trusteeship of the Sumter County (Georgia) Public Library. He informed the delegates that he still had his library card, Number Five; that the librarian who served him in his youth was in attendance at the Conference; and that he expected to make regular use of his local library when he returned five years from now. There was the passel of continuously-shown films on library and information services, the most interesting of which, to the Observer, were on the Congressional Research Service and on the workings of the Ramapo Catskill (New York) Library System, and the educational and library systems of New York State more generally.

There were the inevitable foulups: the broken-down voting machines, the dead microphones, the uneven distribution of important documents. Nevertheless, the Observer believes that the organizers of the Conference did a creditable job, particularly as there was no previous experience with a White House Conference on Library and Information Services. By comparison, however, the organization and proceedings of the Rhode Island Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services reminded the Observer of the English Parliament or some other, even more decorous, legislature. Maybe, the Observer now muses, that is the inescapable difference between the managerial challenges posed by a national conference as opposed to a state conference. But he did think very well of a post-White House Conference observation by the leader of the Rhode Island delegation, State Representative Victoria Lederberg. She thought the logistics of the Conference might have been radically improved had the experience gained at the state and territorial levels been more effectively drawn upon.

The Rhode Island delegation acquitted itself splendidly. Our delegates and alternates were Louise Dolan, Diane Kadanoff, Bob Janes, Joan Reeves, Sam LoPresti, Richard Plotz, Bill LeVeque, Barbara Wilson, Becky Anderson, and Catherine Stewart, in addition to Representative Lederberg. Also on hand as observers were Bruce Daniels of the Department of State Library Services and George Parks of the Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries. The delegation caucused on several occasions, considered a statement on the study bill for a National Library Act, and discussed a number of resolutions. When they had something to say, our



representatives did not hesitate to make good use of the microphones and the privileges of the floor. You can be proud of them. There was a strong Rhode Island presence in Washington.

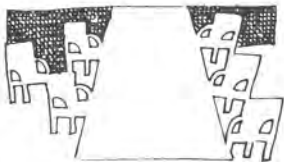


# CALENDAR

*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.*

- |              |          |   |
|--------------|----------|---|
| 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.   |
| Jan.<br>Mar. | 30-<br>5 | "Agency Management," course by the RI Department of Community Affairs. Six Wednesdays, 9:15am - 12:15pm<br>Department of Elderly Affairs, 79 Washington St., Providence. Fee: \$28.00. For information call 277-2877. |
| Feb.<br>Mar. | 6-<br>5  | "Grantship I," course by the RI Department of Community Affairs. Five Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30 pm. Fee: \$30.00. For information call 277-2877.  |

- Feb. 7 RILA Executive Board Meeting, University of Rhode Island Library, 2:00-5:00 pm
- Feb. 13 "Films for Adults," previews at the Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative, Warwick Public Library, 9:30am-noon; repeated at 1:30-4:00 pm.
- Mar. 13 Census Information Workshop, sponsored by Rhode Island Council for Community Services and the Rhode Island Chapter of Special Libraries Association. Providence. For information call Judith Pontarelli, 274-4900, x 331.
- Apr. 3 "Conference on Building Documents Collections," NELINET Government Documents Task Group, Tufts University, Medford MA. Registration: \$20; students \$15. For information: Natalie Schatz, Documents Librarian, Harvard College Library, Cambridge MA 02138; (617) 495-2089.
- Apr. 21-22 "Conference on AACR II" Bates College Library, Lewiston ME. Speakers: Joe Derbyshire, Jeanne Burnette, Laima Mockus, Fae Hamilton, John Linford. Fee: \$15.00, Monday banquet additional \$10.00. For information and reservations: Mary Elizabeth Dudman, Bates College Library, Lewiston ME 04240; telephone: 207-784-2949.





## NEWS FROM RILA

President Louise Blalock Dolan rapped her gavel (figuratively) calling to order the first RILA Executive Board meeting of her term. She set a rapid businesslike pace, in effect calling for the best efforts of Board members, committee chairmen, and other participants. She called the Board's attention to the Association's committees. This is the arena where the major work of the Association is done. We must encourage more members to join committees to become involved and to carry on the work. At the end of this article we print a brief statement on the scope of each committee so members may join what interests them.

The Government Relations Committee proposed a 1980 Legislative Package for consideration by the Board. The Board endorsed two goals, as follows:

- 1) State grant-in-aid to libraries for cities and towns: increase from 37½¢ to 50¢ per capita. (appropriation legislation)
- 2) Establishment of the Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative in State law as a statewide media resource center with a minimum of \$75,000 of state funding. The Film Cooperative is presently handled as a budget item of the Department of State Library Services, now funded at \$32,000 from the State. (authorization and appropriation legislation)

The Government Relations Committee is also working on a more ambitious "Library Access Bill" for Rhode Island. They will incorporate goals from the Governor's and White House Conference to recommend to the General Assembly. This bill will be a long-range effort: legislation to have passed not this year, but perhaps piece by piece over several sessions, building an overall program.

The Board discussed and passed a motion to join CRIARL in sponsoring an Ad Hoc Committee on Organization of Library Services at the State Level in Rhode Island. (CRIARL: Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries) This Committee has already been active calling attention to a major

Governor's Conference resolution to unite library, records, and archives activities under one state agency. The Committee is planning a theme issue on the topic for the RILA Bulletin in Spring 1980. The joint sponsorship of this Committee is a fine way for the library associations to coordinate their efforts.

The Public Relations Committee presented to the Board a proposal they are submitting to Grolier Educational Corporation and the National Library Week Committee. The project is a slide-tape presentation called "America's Greatest Bargain - the Library." Its purpose is to show the local business community the resources available to them from the public library. The proposal, prepared by Committee member Steve Kochoff, looks exciting and practical.

Other Committees are at work. Join one.

#### RILA COMMITTEES

- Conference Committee - plan programs and make arrangements for meetings of the Association.
- Continuing Education Committee - develop and implement a program of continuing education for all library personnel.
- Government Relations Committee - sponsor and work toward passage of library-related legislation.
- Intellectual Freedom Committee - work to safeguard the rights of librarians and library users.
- Membership Committee - attract new members and recommend ways of maintaining active members.
- Nominating Committee - present slate of candidates for RILA officers and Executive Committee members, and conduct elections.
- Outreach Committee - provide guidance and formulate direction for libraries and individuals concerned with outreach programs.
- Public Relations Committee - promote libraries, librarians and library education.
- RILA Bulletin Committee - publish news and discussion of all issues of interest to RI public, school, academic, and special librarians and libraries.
- Trustees Committee - work with Trustees in a continuing effort to help achieve excellence in library service.
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee - interpret, review and propose modification of the constitution.

Personnel Committee - to establish procedures to protect employment rights and to define employment responsibilities of library personnel.

## GALLIMAUFRY

FREE BROCHURE AVAILABLE: "The Retarded Citizen and the Library: A guide for Librarians" is a brochure prepared by the Outreach Committee of RILA, assisted by the Department of State Library Services, the Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals, and Division of Retardation. To receive a copy, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to C. Baldwin, Department of State Library Services, 95 Davis Street, Providence, RI 02908.

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STUDENT MAGAZINE: The latest copy of the Mirror, a University of Rhode Island Extension student publication is ready. The theme is "neighborhoods." The price is \$2.00. To order a copy call Dr. Wilfred Dvorak, 277-3830.

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STATE-WIDE FACULTY BORROWING: The Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries (CRIARL) is offering state-wide faculty library identification cards to all faculty members on continuing appointment in member institutions. These new cards may be presented by a faculty member to any other consortium library to obtain borrowing privileges. Cards will be issued by library directors for one year and may

be renewed if this arrangement, which is on a trial basis, proves satisfactory. CRIARL member libraries are: Barrington College, Brown University, Bryant College, Providence College, Providence Public Library, Rhode Island College, Rhode Island Junior College, Rhode Island Historical Society, Rhode Island School of Design, Roger Williams College, Salve Regina - The Newport College, United States Naval War College, University of Rhode Island.

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NEW ENGLAND SMALL PRESS PUBLICATIONS: Expressall has published two books and a record for children and parents: "To Music and Children," "Before 1776: the Massachusetts Bay Colony from Founding to Revolution,," and "Dapele: Bop 'n' Pop and all that Jazz." For information write to: Expressall, PO Box 427, Brookline MA 02146.

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RI/JMRT: WHO, WHAT, WHY:

WHO: JMRT is another set of those endless library initials, this one standing for the Junior Members Round Table. JMRT members are graduate students and professional librarians 1) who are under 36 years of age, and/or 2) who have been in the library profession less than six years, and/or 3) librarians new to the state of Rhode Island.

WHAT: The Junior Members Round Table originated as part of the American Library Association. This year national JMRT boasts a membership of over 1200 persons. In recent years it was proposed that JMRT activities be extended to a state level with state affiliates actively participating within their individual states. (Membership in ALA is not prerequisite to joining RI/JMRT). RI/JMRT has more than doubled its membership since the first organizational meeting was held in July, 1979. In January 1980 we will be officially represented by our Affiliates Council Representative at ALA Midwinter in Chicago.

WHY: National JMRT was established back in 1931 in order to give younger librarians the opportunity to become actively involved in the association. RI/JMRT's main objective is to orient its members to the library and information science community in Rhode Island and to represent those issues of interest to the newer librarians in the state. RI/JMRT provides for its members the opportunity to gather professionally

and socially to discuss the problems, pitfalls, and pleasures of librarianship in Rhode Island. Our current membership consists of school, public, academic, and special librarians, graduate students, and information specialists. The group is enthusiastic, eager to try new things, and ready to get involved. All indications point to a long and successful future for RI/JMRT.

- Jane Sanfilippo







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