

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

---

RILA Bulletin

Rhode Island Library Association

---

9-1995

## Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 68, no. 9-10

RILA

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila\\_bulletin](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin)

---

### Recommended Citation

RILA, "Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 68, no. 9-10" (1995). *RILA Bulletin*. Book 241. [https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila\\_bulletin/241](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/241) [https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila\\_bulletin/241](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/241)

This Book is brought to you by the University of Rhode Island. It has been accepted for inclusion in RILA Bulletin by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons-group@uri.edu](mailto:digitalcommons-group@uri.edu). For permission to reuse copyrighted content, contact the author directly.



# Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin

Volume No. V. 68 N. 9 & 10

ISSN:0146-8685

September/October 1995

*Library security is a "hot" topic, (witness the overflow crowd attending the RILA 1993 Fall Conference presentation), and can mean different things to different people. The efforts and strategy behind keeping a library – its personnel, its patrons and its materials – secure, can be simple or complex. But as both Trinkaus-Randall and Austin mention, an effective security plan is based not only on equipment and procedures, but also on an attitude that keeps security and attention to it intentional, ongoing and shared by all. With this issue the Bulletin presents the first two in a series of articles dealing with the many different aspects of library security.*

## ***Security Issues for a Local History/Special Collection Room***

GREGOR TRINKAUS-RANDALL

Due to space limitations, this article will of necessity merely touch upon some of the key issues that librarians need to consider when providing a secure environment for their special/local history collections. Generally librarians should consider any action that protects the materials from damage and continues to make them available for research to fall within the purview of security, not just those actions that minimize or eliminate the possibility of materials being either mutilated or stolen. All too often security is thought of as something that one adds on to the fabric of an organization as a necessary evil. Unfortunately, this mentality usually results in a spotty and incomplete security program. Security needs to be considered as an integral part of one's operations. As such its implementation becomes second nature to the staff and any deviations from the norm are noticed quickly. While this article focuses specifically on the security concerns of special/local history collections, the concepts and the theories behind these precepts apply to all collections.

In approaching the security needs of the collections in a special/local history room, it is crucial to realize that since they have been designated by the staff as being "special," they need to be afforded "special" considerations which begin with the environment in which they are stored. The temperature should be as constant as possible, preferably between 65° and 68° F. The relative humidity should be kept between 40°

and 45°. In both instances, the temperature and relative humidity should be maintained at these levels twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. This is necessary because fluctuations in either, or both result in internal stresses being exerted on the structure of the materials, greatly decreasing their lifespan and potentially making them unavailable for use.

The room in which these special collections are housed also has some specific requirements. Preferably there should be no windows or ways for direct sunlight to penetrate the room. If there is a window, then shades or curtains should be employed to block out the sunlight because of the damaging impact sunlight and ultraviolet rays have on library and archival materials. Furthermore, if the room has fluorescent lights, those lights to be covered with ultraviolet-filtering sleeves. Often this problem can be mitigated by using incandescent lamps on the tables that can be turned on as they are needed, at the same time reducing the intensity of the existing fluorescent lights, which still need to be sleeved. Preferably the materials should be housed on metal shelves (powder-coated are preferred, but baked-enamel that have had a chance to off-gas are acceptable) and not wooden ones. Unfortunately, trustees and other decision-makers often prefer wooden shelves in these rooms because of the ambiance they create. The problem is that wooden shelves often release chemicals, including formaldehyde, that are deleterious to library and archival materials.

One of the best ways to provide security for archival materials is to make sure that all are cataloged or processed. In this manner, there is a paper (or an electronic) trail from the accession records to the cataloging records demonstrating ownership of the



materials by that institution. Remember, however, that such records can be, and often have been, changed to make it difficult for an institution to be able to trace its ownership. Therefore, it is important that copies of any such records be made on a regular basis and be kept off-site, or at least in a different location from the originals, so that any potential tampering with them would be difficult. When creating these records, make sure that any particular identifying information on the books, documents, photographs, etc. is duly noted. If any of these materials are stored in a location out of the view of the staff, then no one except the staff must be allowed to access, use, or retrieve them from that location. Preferably, this location should be a closed stack area to which only the staff has access.

In most smaller libraries, the local history/special collections room is just that: a room. Consequently, it is crucial that access to the special materials in that room be well monitored and allowed only under certain circumstances and under staff supervision. As was mentioned above, these special collections deserve special care. Preferably, the staff should provide a secure location outside the local history/special collections room for patrons to store their belongings (outerwear, briefcases, book bags, purses, etc.) while they are examining the special collections. Patrons should be permitted to bring in only those materials that they need specifically for their research: notes, pencils, note paper, and possibly some books or articles to which they need to refer. Pens must not be permitted, as the ink can disfigure the materials.

Since these are special collections, all patrons should read and sign a set of rules and regulations devised by the library to regulate the ways in which these materials are consulted. Such rules and regulations should, among other things, delineate what can and cannot be brought into the local history room; the need for using only pencils; that no tracing or leaning on the materials, nor any eating, drinking, or smoking, is permitted; copyright and photocopying (to be done at the discretion of and by the staff only) information; and the need to consult only a limited amount of materials at a time. By requiring such a document be signed, the institution is indicating that it considers these materials to be special and expects them to be treated as such. Furthermore, it is crucial to emphasize that these regulations apply to ALL patrons using these materials – no exceptions! – to ensure that the collections are there for future use.

Supervision of the local history/special collections room may be difficult for most smaller libraries, but it is important for the safety of the materials that with some regularity a staff person check in and observe activity in the room. It is definitely preferable that a volunteer or a staff person be assigned to that room to maintain continual surveillance of the materials and the patrons. Staff should also be familiar with the state

laws governing theft and mutilation of library and archival materials so that they do not put themselves in jeopardy by acting in a manner that is contrary to the law. (See Rhode Island statutes 11-41-14, 11-41-14.1, and 11-41-15.)

In many libraries, this room may be open during the same hours as the rest of the building. If supervision cannot be provided whenever a patron is consulting the collections, then perhaps this room should be open only for specific hours when supervision can be provided. On the other hand, it may be that the library does not feel that the collections are special enough to warrant such treatment. If that is the case, then maybe the whole premise of having a local history/special collections room in the first place should be re-examined.

*–Gregor Trinkaus-Randall is the  
Collection Management/  
Preservation Specialist at the  
Massachusetts Board of Library  
Commissioners and the author of  
Protecting Your Collections: A  
Manual of Archival Security.*

## ***Library Security***

DAN AUSTIN

Security has become a topic of lively discussion among librarians. While there is some indication that crime may be declining in this country, librarians increasingly feel that their workplace is becoming threatening. Perhaps these feelings are the result of the intense coverage which violence gets in the media. The fact that library employees have been murdered in Arizona and California within the last few years has made the threat of violence more credible. This is tragically reinforced by the violent acts reported in area schools and local communities as well. While the probability of violence in the library realistically must be assessed as low, we must take the threat of personal violence seriously. We would be remiss if we were not to take measures to protect library staff and patrons against such threats and to minimize the likelihood of the occurrence of violent crime in or around the library.

Any consideration of library security must take cognizance of the particular difficulties libraries face in making our workplace secure. While we wish to be secure, we also wish to be "open" to the great variety of people who need our services. Indeed, as an organization which has quite often seen itself as an advocate of the most disadvantaged members of the communities which we serve, we find it particularly difficult to implement measures which will tend to "close" our organizations. The goals of openness and security are not completely compatible. We must therefore be



clear from the outset that we cannot guarantee that violent crimes will not occur, nor can we protect each and every staff member from harm, regardless of the circumstances. There is, however, much that we can do to make the library more secure, while still remaining open to the public.

No single approach to security will meet the needs of all library organizations. A public library serving a poor inner city neighborhood has different needs than a suburban library serving an upper middle class community. A multistory research library with miles of stacks and hidden corners will benefit from a different strategy than a one-room library in a rural community. The need for distinct strategies, however, should not obscure the fact that these widely disparate organizations are facing essentially the same problem. The security strategies of each will share the same structure.

The development of a security strategy begins with an analysis of the potential threats which an organization faces. These can profitably be divided into two classes.

The first class of threats consists of those which can reasonably be foreseen. These threats come from groups or individuals who are known to us or arise from known circumstances. To some degree these threats can be controlled. They include the ongoing harassment of staff or users by individuals who come to the library for that purpose; the "innocent victimization" of staff caught by illegal activities or violence which occurs on a regular basis in or around the library; acts of violence by individuals who are known to be potential threats; and economic crimes such as stealing from desks or purses.

The second class of threats consists of those which cannot be reasonably foreseen. These incidents include random acts of violence by the deranged, the drug-addicted, the antisocial or the evil. These individuals are not generally known to us, but may randomly appear at the library. Random acts of violence are obviously much more difficult to control. However, some thought should be given to developing a planned response that will limit harm to individuals as well as any damage to or destruction of property.

Having determined the type and degree of threat which it faces, each library can develop a security strategy specifically tailored to meet its needs. The component principles of each strategy will differ in specifics and in degree, but not in kind. An effective strategy must address each of the following areas.

1. Access to the library's physical facilities must be controlled. Insofar as possible the presence of individuals who may commit acts of violence must be eliminated. The public areas of a library should be clearly defined, and unauthorized persons should be prevented from intruding in nonpublic areas. In most cases this will mean physically barring access by lock-

ing doors, installing gates, and requiring keys to gain access to certain floors from elevators. Individuals who penetrate nonpublic areas, or who attempt to do so, must be challenged immediately and removed from the area. In this regard, staff should assume that individuals whom they do not know are not authorized to be in nonpublic areas and should challenge them. Larger libraries will want to issue identification badges to facilitate that process.

2. Library staff must be constantly aware of who is in the building, where they are and what they are doing. The presence/absence of each staff member should be noted on a daily basis. Staff who leave public service desks or offices to work alone or in secluded areas of a building should notify their coworkers and should be checked periodically. The presence and location of any suspicious individual in the building should be noted and communicated to appropriate staff. Staff should be assigned some responsibility for monitoring the building, if only by walking through each area periodically.
3. Library staff must be able to communicate with one another effectively and efficiently to advise and alert one another to potential or actual threats. Certainly everyone has seen a movie or television show, or perhaps even read a book, wherein a code "blue" or "red" was announced over a hospital public address system, provoking a flurry of activity as doctors and nurses race through the halls to address whatever emergency had just been announced. Most libraries will probably not need, or want, such a system, but the principle behind the system is significant. Library staff need to establish clear communication systems to ensure that staff are aware of what is happening in the building. In addition some system should be developed so that staff working in isolated areas or alone in offices can communicate with other staff in the event of an emergency.
4. A security plan must establish clear policies and procedures. Each library, for example, needs to decide where it stands with regard to the balance between an individual's right to use the library and an employee's right to a safe workplace. Insofar as possible libraries should decide what constitutes appropriate behavior in the library. Decisions will have to be made concerning the necessity of hiring security guards and with regard to which staff persons should respond to problem patrons. A plan should be developed to evacuate the building on short notice to minimize or eliminate the consequences of random acts of violence.



5. Discipline must be maintained in all public service areas. Problems or threats must be promptly met with a planned and coordinated response. Libraries must insist that library users behave appropriately in the library. Any problems should be dealt with promptly and forcefully. If problem behaviors are not corrected immediately, or if they recur, offending patrons exhibiting such behavior should be removed from the premises.
6. Security must be an integral part of the management philosophy of the organization. Security does have a cost, both in terms of the time and effort it takes to develop, implement and maintain an effective security strategy, and in dollars and cents required to alter buildings and purchase equipment required to secure a building. These costs may be as low as the purchase of a few combination locks for doors, or they may involve the ongoing expense of hiring security guards. Staff costs may involve no more than a few more minutes at a staff meeting, or require establishing staff committees and revising job duties for some staff. These costs may in fact be difficult for many libraries to justify because they do not directly contribute to organizational output. In this regard, it is important to remember that a security strategy is perforce not intended to produce something. It is intended to prevent something.

Finally, everyone should understand that an effective security strategy is as much an attitude as it is a system. Staff must individually and collectively participate in efforts to make the library secure. One of the greatest difficulties in making public buildings secure is the tendency of many individuals to believe that security is something that someone else (the police, the guard, the town, the administration) provides. This is wrong. In order to be effective, security must be an individual as well as an organizational responsibility. Making a building secure will perforce also make it inconvenient. If staff are unwilling to accept the inconvenience, then efforts to enhance security will fail. The best lock in the world will not stop an intruder if the door has been propped open to let in more fresh air. But cooperation alone is not enough. In addition to following procedures, each staff member must make a personal commitment to take responsibility for making him or herself and his or her area secure. This is not to imply that library employees engage in collective or individual paranoia, but to note that we all need to be

conscious of what is happening around us and to evaluate our environment, and that we must be prepared to take action to address problems which will inevitably occur.

*-Dan Austin is Director of  
Personnel at Providence Public  
Library.*

## *The Internet Exchange*

### *Virtual Networking*

#### **MAKE THE MOST OUT OF MAILING LISTS AND DISCUSSIONS GROUPS**

*by A. Paula Azaar*

The creation of mailing lists and discussion groups has made communicating with colleagues easier and faster. You need only an email account to participate. What academia has been enjoying for years is now available to public, school, and special librarians around the world. Through mailing lists librarians send announcements of upcoming meetings, respond to and post reference questions, distribute library-related news and learn of position vacancies. Discussion groups are also a forum to discuss practical issues within a certain subject area. You'll find heated issues debated (children and pornography on the 'Net: PUBLIB-NET) and then, sometimes the discussion wanders off until it winds up dying a slow death (image portrayed of librarian in Saturn commercial: BUSLIB-L).

You'll find that participating in discussion groups adds to professional development. It's almost like attending a daily computer conference or workshop, but at your leisure. It's also bringing the library community closer, both in Rhode Island and across the country.

#### **HOW DISCUSSION GROUPS WORK**

Software called list servers allow librarians to join mailing lists. Mail is sent by an individual to the list and is then distributed to all members of the list and discussion ensues. Some of the most popular mail server (or list server) programs include Listproc, Listserv, Mailbase, Mailser, and Majordomo. Depending on the mail server used, the commands may vary. Obtain a description of commands used in these five programs by sending a message to [listserv@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu]. In the body of the message (no subject line) type the following command: get mailser cmd nettrain f=mail. You will automatically be sent a document titled *Discussion Lists: Mail Server Commands* by James Milles, Head of Computer Services, Saint Louis University Law Library.

Many of the library-related mailing lists run on Listserv. For a description of Listserv's general user commands do the following. Send to



[listserv@univscvm.csd.sc Carolina.edu], subject line empty, and in the body of the message type: info refcard.

#### HOW TO FIND DISCUSSION GROUPS

Besides browsing through the list on the LORI web page, one of the easiest ways to find discussion groups of interest is to send a message to listserv. Email to [listserv@listserv.net], no subject line, and in the body of the message type: LIST GLOBAL/xxxxxx, where xxxxxx = keywords for the topic of interest. For example, I sent the following message [List Global/business] and retrieved a list of about 20 listservs with that topic. The results are automatically sent to you and include directions on subscribing to the lists. It's a great time-saving alternative to browsing through pages of lists.

#### LEARNING PROPER PROTOCOL

- Decide whether to reply to an individual or the entire group. Sometimes it is more appropriate to respond to someone directly rather than carry on a personal conversation in the presence of a few hundred people.
- One topic per posting makes it easy for others to respond. Many of us respond to a question using the reply command. If you've posted two unrelated questions within one message, the subject line won't reflect the actual content of the replies you receive.
- Some librarians receive so much mail they pick and choose messages based on the subject line displayed when reading from their directory. Be sure to give your messages appropriate headers so they're not overlooked!
- Before responding to any request, avoid redundancy by reading all email to make sure the same answer hasn't already been posted. You'll only feel foolish responding to a question that has already been answered the same way four or five times!
- Learn to use quote functions. Many of us are so active on lists that we forget specifics of messages sent ... remind us by quoting when referring to messages. It's common to see this: On September 29th, John Smith wrote: ...
- Copy all outgoing messages to keep a record of what was sent. Believe this: the message you send may not be the same one received! It may be a rare occasion that your email gets scrambled with another message, but it has happened!
- Always use subject lines, an empty subject line may mean someone has sent a command to the entire group instead of the mail server, and therefore many people will simply skip no-subject postings.
- If posting a reference question, list all sources you've checked, this saves time and lets other librarians know you've done some of the footwork.

- Avoid miscommunication – use emoticons when appropriate :-). Lots of communication is lost over telephone lines. Imagine communication without sound! :-( That's email. Learn to use symbols to emphasize and convey your messages clearly. :-)
- NO SHOUTING – nobody likes to be yelled at – capitalize according to basic grammar rules!
- If you request information on the list, be prepared to summarize for the group! You'll receive some responses on the discussion list and some to your personal email. Members of the list expect you to summarize your results. It's another way of saying thanks.
- Learn your limitations! Some lists distribute lots of mail daily, others are not as active. Join those lists directly related to your specialty and you'll find yourself using your time more efficiently.

## Preservation Update

by Ann M. Dodge

#### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

The New England Museum Association will be holding its Annual Conference in Springfield, Massachusetts from the 8th through the 10th of November. Don't be put off by the word "museum." There are several sessions that have broader appeal. There will be a half day workshop on "Storage and Care of Photographs," Gary Albright of NEDCC will be the speaker. He will talk about identifying various photographic processes, determining the most pressing conservation problems and selecting potential solutions. "Conservation Matting, Hinging, and Framing: A Demonstration for Beginners" will be conducted by two paper conservators. Discussion topics will include selection of quality materials, dealing with brittle materials and environmental considerations. There will be a hands on workshop on "Conservation Hinging." Participants are to bring an item from their collections to hinge during the workshop. (Pre-registration is essential for this workshop. Enrollment is limited.) The New England Conservation Association is sponsoring a two part session entitled "A Shrinking Preservation Budget: What Should I Not Do First?." This session deals with coping during a time of limited resources. An HVAC engineer will discuss reduction in operating costs, including the consequences of such reductions. The second part covers exhibitions and collections care. Complementing this session is "Conservation Needs for Collections: 1995 Financial Reality." A conservation administrator and a museum



director will discuss overall conservation planning. Finally there will be a session on indoor air quality. Full registration rates vary from \$95-\$150. For more information get in touch with

New England Museum Association  
Boston National Historical Park  
Charlestown Navy Yard  
Boston, MA 02129  
(617) 242-2283

On the afternoon of November 1, 1995, there will be a half way workshop on "Security Issues in Libraries." The session will be held in the conference room of the Providence Campus of CCRI. Topics covered include not only how to keep your collections from being stolen or damaged, but also tips on how to deal with confrontational patrons. Steve Dalton of NEDCC and Gregor Trinkaus-Randall of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will speak on theft in libraries and vandalism of library collections. A representative from the Community Policing Division of the Providence Police Department will discuss workplace safety. Further information can be obtained from Beth Perry at (401) 277-2726 or bethpy@dsl.rhilinet.gov

### RECENT ARTICLES

In the May 15, 1995 business section of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, there was an article on the preservation of sound recordings. George Blood is a recording engineer for the Philadelphia Orchestra subscription concerts and radio broadcasts. Mr. Blood also transfers records to tapes and CD's and then stores them in a climate-controlled facility.

Maria Grandinette and Randy Silverman contributed an article on book repair to the May, 1995 issue of *Abbey Newsletter*. The article reports on activities of the Library Collections Conservation Discussion Group. "The group addresses issues such as:

- 1) expanding treatment selection guidelines to encompass historically significant material housed in the open stacks,
- 2) investigating methods for achieving economic and efficient operations,
- 3) identifying educational needs within the field,
- 4) exploring ways to provide support for educational workshops and training."

The July/August issue of *CC&RL News* has an article by Helene Rockman entitled "Coping with Library Incidents." The article details a staff development program designed to help employees respond properly to emergency situations. The article advocates the use of simulations to train library staff. Six different simulations are included in the article.

"The tale of the terribly high-tech library building" by Jeannette Woodward appears in the April,

1995 issue of *American Libraries*. This article deals with the dangers of building a new library. It is "a composite of the painful experiences of several librarians working in academic and public library settings, but each and every crisis did in fact occur." Although this may sound obvious, the author reminds librarians that "your building is your business."

The June *Newsletter of the Midwest Archives Conference* reports on Fynette Eaton's work in electronic records. Ms. Eaton works for the National Archives' Center for Electronic Records and is responsible for preserving federal records generated by a computer and transferred to the Archives in an electronic format. Suggested environmental conditions are 62-68 degrees Fahrenheit and relative humidity between 35-45%. There is a brief discussion of special storage and handling considerations when dealing with electronic records. A more detailed account appears in the Winter, 1994-1995 issue of *Spectra* (newsletter of the Museum Computer Network).

The January issue of *CAN* contains Marcia Watt's and Lisa Biblo's "CD-ROM Longevity: A Select Bibliography." There are thirty-five citations, of which all but eight were published in the 90's. Information about standards is also included.

The Spring, 1995 issue of *Illinois Libraries* contains Robert Milevski's "Book Repair Manual." *Illinois Libraries* is reprinting the manual which appeared ten years earlier.

If there are any subjects concerning preservation that you would like to see covered in future columns, please get in touch with Ann Dodge at the John Hay Library, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912, or 863-1502.

## Intellectual Freedom Matters

STEPHEN L. THOMPSON

This occasional column on the activities of the RILA Intellectual Freedom Committee and general intellectual freedom issues is being initiated at the suggestion of a member of the Executive Board. The periodic report that the IFC chair presents to the Board was thought to be a potentially useful summary of what's going on locally and around the country. An attempt will be made to highlight events, meetings, challenges, trends, and sources and sites of information related to freedom of expression and censorship.

Although the annual Banned Books Week observance (September 23rd-30th) has just passed, it is worth noting that its theme, "Celebrating the Freedom to Read," focuses on a fundamental right that we librarians should keep in mind throughout the year. We in Rhode Island have been very lucky. There have been no major problems reported here in recent years of the



type being seen in many places around the country, such as the case of *Daddy's Roommate* in Seekonk a couple of years ago and the incident involving the use of novels with homosexual main characters in high school classes in Ipswich, NH, as reported in the *Providence Sunday Journal* of 9/3/95. (For a survey of R.I. incidents, see the March/April 1994 issue of the *RILA Bulletin*; for a brief account of the conference program on the Seekonk challenge, see the July/August 1994 issue.) It's still important to have policies and procedures ready, review them periodically, and remain aware of the kinds of challenges that are occurring elsewhere.

The IFC carried out a few projects designed to heighten awareness of the celebration and to get some publicity for libraries. In late August, we sent a letter to the director of every public library in the state, urging them, their staffs, and their patrons to mark the observance. We noted that the Committee has this year's BBW Kit, which can be purchased from ALA, and that earlier ones and related material are available from DSLS. Besides lists of recent and past banned titles and other background information, the kits include numerous suggestions for exhibits, programs, and promotions. A letter was also sent to the editor of the *Providence Journal*, emphasizing that the basis of the freedom to read, view, listen, and express yourself, is the First Amendment, and that libraries are one of the primary places where that freedom can be exercised. Finally, Beth Sousa at Providence Public Library agreed to distribute a public service announcement about the theme of the week and our role in it to the local media.

Nationally, one of the biggest information issues has to be the Internet, particularly access to it by children in their homes, schools, and libraries. Problems range from who might be "stalking" them to sexually explicit sites they may be connecting to. Even television is under renewed scrutiny and pressure for its portrayals of violence. Not surprisingly, entrepreneurs have jumped on the bandwagon with products like Surfwatch and Nanny Net, that provide parents, school administrators or teachers, and librarians a way to block access to sites the company has already rated or that the user chooses to avoid. TV manufacturers are being strongly encouraged to install "v-chips" that will, in a similar way, allow viewers to prevent access to objectionable programs. Also, to no one's surprise, Congress has gotten into the act, and several pieces of legislation are floating around that attempt to put curbs on Internet use and to mandate controls on television viewing. Alternatively, there are some bills that seek to preserve individual freedom of choice and expression in these media. Some of the former proposals would place legal responsibility on the carriers of the information for what users say and look at. Prodigy already lost a court case regarding their responsibility, though they plan to appeal.

While it is really too big an issue to get into any further here, suffice it to say it obviously involves ques-

tions of free speech/expression and has implications for libraries. In addition to the articles that have been appearing in the regular and library press (for a local slant see the *Providence Sunday Journal* of 7/9/95, Section E page 5, for Timothy Barmann's "Cybertalk" column entitled "Shielding Minors from Internet Porn," which features a Rhode Island junior high principal), I would suggest checking out some of the sites listed below for background information, current news, and commentary on these matters. I do have copies of a couple of policies, one from the Michigan Library Association and another from the Minnesota Coalition Against Censorship, that deal with use of the Internet in schools and libraries. It is definitely time to create a policy or adapt an existing one to cover Internet use. Contact me if you would like copies.

In a related matter, this past summer at the annual conference, ALA's IFC submitted a draft to Council of a new interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights entitled "Access to Electronic Resources, Services, and Networks." Although it was rejected, there are plans to bring a new version to the 1996 midwinter meeting in San Antonio. Once it is adopted, the IFC plans to provide the guidelines and sample policies necessary to implement it. You can get in touch with me if you'd like a copy of the draft.

A few other miscellaneous items worth mentioning:

- the aforementioned *Daddy's Roommate* was the most challenged book for 1994-95, and gay literature and gay education books as a category were the most targeted group of the year.
- ALA Council did adopt the revised Code of Ethics, which still strongly affirms our commitment to intellectual freedom, free access to information, and confidentiality.
- the NELA Annual Conference being held at the beginning of October in Providence includes a program on Monday afternoon (10/2) entitled "Defending the Offensive."
- the last issue of the *RILA Bulletin* (July/August, p. 15) mentioned the Intellectual Freedom Network, which we support and belong to. Please do act as the eyes and ears for intellectual freedom for our local committee as well as for the Office for Intellectual Freedom.

Here are some Internet sites you might want to visit or subscribe to:

<http://www.intac.com/~kgs/freedom>

This is Karen Schneider's homepage, which features general information, opinions, and a good list of sample Internet use policies.

<http://www.ala.org>

This is ALA's homepage, which includes some IF documents.



<http://trfn.pgh.pa.us/policy.html>

This is a site that has the text of Martin Rimm's "Marketing Pornography on the Internet," which was written up in *Time* (7/3/95), as well as critiques, debate, and discussion on his controversial study.

<http://www.vtw.org>

This site provides access to Bill Watch, "a weekly newsletter tracking US federal legislation affecting civil liberties." There are instructions on how to subscribe.

<http://w3.trib.com/FACT/>

This is a First Amendment resource site.

"The more things change, the more they stay the same." It's difficult not to think of that old cliché when contemplating the issues discussed above, particularly the controversy over the Internet. Despite the Bill of Rights, written over 200 years ago, despite decades of advocacy of free speech, freedom to read, and free access to information, the same battles are being fought for the same reasons over the same things. No matter how much you may argue that a certain title or topic has stood the test of time or that the Internet is just another resource or service like the ones we've offered in the past, all of them will undoubtedly continue to be challenged. As a different way to get information, the Internet does seem to have an exhilarating or intimidating potential, depending on your point of view, to provide easy access to a vast variety of resources on a scale never seen before. We can only hope that it will become a tool to be utilized to the fullest, rather than a battleground to be regulated and circumscribed until its usefulness is all but destroyed.

If you have any suggestions for this column or questions about our activities, or if you are interested in being on the committee, please contact me.

*—Steve L. Thompson, Chair, RILA  
Intellectual Freedom Committee  
Reference Department  
Box A Brown University  
Providence, RI 02912  
863-2167  
Stephen\_L\_Thompson@brown.edu*

## D A T E S

- October 28-29:** Rhode Island Festival of Children's Books and Authors, Lincoln School, Providence.
- November 6:** RILA Fall Conference, Barrington Public Library.
- November 7:** COLA Annual Meeting, Cranston Public Library, 7:00 p.m.

## B U L L E T I N   B O A R D

There will be a Library Advocacy Now workshop at the COLA annual meeting on November 7, 1995 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cranston Public Library. Donna DuFault, director of the North Kingstown Free Library and Marnie Warner, Law Library Coordinator of the Massachusetts Trial Court, will lead this program for grass roots supporters for libraries and library legislation. They will offer training for strategies and techniques to be an effective advocate at the local, state and national level.



The Pawtucket Public Library recently received a \$900 grant from the ADDD (Archive-Document-Display-Disseminate) Fund for its local history project "Picture Pawtucket." The Fund was established within the Rhode Island Community Foundation to support efforts to use media to stimulate community dialogue.

The Library's project will index approximately 800 of its collection of 1,300 photographs and postcards on Pawtucket local history and scan them into a computer database. Library users will then have access through the computer to this collection, which until now was available only to serious researchers. Library users will have access both by multiple subject headings and by photographer. Currently, photographs and postcards are filed in a file cabinet under one subject heading only. Patrons will be able to print out copies of the images on the computer's printer.



### *Anonymous Donor Gives \$10,000 to Restore Library Hours*

An anonymous donor has given the Greenville Public Library \$10,000 so operating hours can be restored. The Town's funding of the Library has remained nearly level for each of the last three years, which has resulted in cuts of both staff and hours of operation. The Library had been open 58 hours per week in 1993, which was cut to 51 in 1994, and further reduced to 41 in July. The Library Board requested an additional \$15,744 from the Town Council at the annual financial hearing in April to maintain library services. The request was denied by the Town Council. The request was again made at the budget meeting in May, and did not pass the 80% rule, which requires that 80% of those present second a motion before it can be discussed or voted on. The increase would have



cost tax payers 2¢ per \$1,000 on the tax rate. Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Saturdays were cut from the library's weekly schedule in July, in order to keep operations within budget. A resident of Smithfield, who wants to remain anonymous, has provided \$10,000 so the Library Board can restore hours in the fall. This is meant as a supplement for this year, in the hope that others will come forward to help, and that the Town Council will provide adequate funding next year.

According to Christopher La Roux, the library director, the gift was unexpected, and truly a wonderful display of caring, on the part of the donor, for those in the community who rely on the library for recreational and informational reading material. The Staff and Trustees have expressed excitement over the gift, which will make it possible to open ten more hours, and assure that the library meets state standards.

Fall hours will begin on Tuesday, September 5, and will be as follows:

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday:	10 a.m. — 8 p.m.
Thursday:	1 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Friday & Saturday:	10 a.m. — 5 p.m.



This summer the East Providence Public Library was fortunate to receive reimbursement of outreach expenses from the Department of State Library Services to extend the Summer Reading Program beyond the walls of the Library.

A partnership was formed between the Children's Library and Bullocks Point Village, a housing project located in the Riverside section of the City. 174 families live at Bullocks Point Village. Each week they had the opportunity to use their own community room to circulate books, participate in craft programs and listen to stories.

The "Mysterious Carousel" was the theme of this summer's reading program. Children at Bullocks Point Village had the chance to become young detectives and solve the mystery of the stolen carousel horse. The free passes to state parks and museums were distributed to the children as they completed reading their books.

The eight week program was a great success. It allowed children who would not ordinarily visit the library the opportunity to join in the summer activities, read new books and have fun. A lasting partnership with the village was formed.



## *Rhode Island Festival of Children's Books and Authors*

The seventh annual Rhode Island Festival of Children's Books and Authors presented by Women and Infants Hospital in cooperation with the Department of State Library Services will be held Saturday, October 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 29 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Lincoln School, 301 Butler Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island. There will be books for sale, autographing sessions, presentations by the authors and illustrators and activities for children. Featured authors include Joseph Bruchac, Steven Kellogg, Richard McGuire, Susan Meddaugh, Stella Ormai, Patricia Polacco, Chris Raschka, Nancy Tafuri, and Chris Van Allsburg.

Admission is \$3.00 per day. Proceeds will benefit Women and Infants Hospital and reading motivation projects in Rhode Island. For advanced tickets, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Women and Infants Hospital  
Book Festival  
P.O. Box 9696  
Providence, RI 02940-9696

For more information, call (401) 739-5440 or (401) 277-2726.

## PEOPLE

**PATIENCE BLISS**, former Technical Services Librarian at the Coventry Public Library, is now CLAN Cataloger at Providence Public Library.

**DARRYL JOHNSON** has been appointed Director of the Mohr Memorial Library in Johnston.

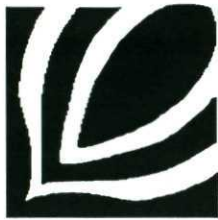
**JENNY LAPERRIERE**, former State Publications Clearinghouse Director at the Rhode Island State Library, is now Technical Services Librarian at East Providence Public Library.

**PATTY MCCARTHY** and **WARREN SMITH** have obtained their Masters Degrees in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Rhode Island. Mr. Smith is a Library Assistant, and Ms. McCarthy is assuming the position of Assistant Children's/Young Adult Librarian, at the Greenville Public Library.

**DAVID MACKSAM** is the new Director of the Cranston Public Library. He previously had been Director of the Clermont County Public Library in Batavia, Ohio.

**THOMAS MICHALAK** recently was named First Vice Provost for Information and Dean of University Libraries at the University of Rhode Island. In addi-





## Join NELA Today!

Your low membership fee entitles you to reduced rates on the Annual Conference and other programs; plus a year's subscription to *New*

*England Libraries*, the only newsletter that reports on library issues throughout the entire region.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

Work address \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Work telephone \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Dues Schedule

(circle one)

\$15 Personal membership/  
annual salary under \$15,000

\$\_\_ Dues

\$25 Personal membership/  
annual salary \$15,001-\$25,000

\$\_\_ Contribution

\$35 Personal membership/  
annual salary \$25,001-\$35,000

(Your contribution of \$1 or more to the Memorial

\$35 Personal membership/  
annual salary \$35,001-\$45,000

(Your contribution of \$1 or

\$45 Personal membership/  
annual salary over \$45,000

Endowment Fund provides

\$50 Institutional

NELA Conference Grants,  
Continuing Education Grants,  
and Graduate Library School

\$15 Retired

scholarships.)

\$25 Trustee/Friend

\$\_\_ Total Enclosed

If you are a Personal Member, please indicate which category best describes you. Circle one only.

S School Librarian

A Academic

M Medical Librarian

T Trustee/Friend

L Legal Librarian

Z Supplier

P Public Librarian

R Retired

C Corporate Librarian

O Other

G Government Agency

Please make checks payable to "New England Library Association" and mail with completed form to:

New England Library Association  
Countryside Offices  
707 Turnpike Street  
North Andover, MA 01845  
508-685-5966  
FAX 508-685-9410

tion to the library, he will oversee URI's Academic Computer Center and Audiovisual Center. He comes to URI from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

**GLORIA SCHMIDT** has been appointed part-time Reference Librarian at Tiverton Library Services.

**CLAIRE WHELIHAN** has been appointed Library Media Specialist at Thacher Middle School in Attleboro.

## ALA Washington D.C. Offices Move to New Facilities

On August 23, 1995, the American Library Association Washington Office and the Office for Information Technology Policy moved from 110 Maryland Avenue, N.E. to new and expanded joint offices. Their new listings are:

Washington Office  
American Library Association  
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 403  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
VOICE: 202-628-8410  
FAX: 202-628-8419  
EMAIL: alawash@alawash.org

Office for Information Technology Policy  
American Library Association  
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 403  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
VOICE: 202-628-8421  
FAX: 202-628-8424  
EMAIL: oitp@alawash.org

Email addresses, including individual staff addresses, remain the same.

The move is part of the expansion of ALA's Washington presence to implement ALA Goal 2000. The new office suite incorporates a totally new local area network and upgraded computer, electronic communications, and voicemail systems.

### Books, Glorious Books!!

The *RILA Bulletin* Publications committee is asking for the help of all RILA members for a special issue of the *Bulletin!* We plan to devote the better portion of the November/ December issue to books and reading. We would like to assemble an informal list of librarians' favorite books. We're asking as many of you as possible to send us a particular favorite title and 1-3 lines about it to be included in this issue. Whether it's something you read last week or in your childhood, we would like as eclectic an assortment as possible. E-mail, FAX, delivery system or mail responses to Mattie Gustafson at the Newport Public Library by November 1st. Thank you.



# Noteworthy Correspondence

August 23, 1995



Karen McGrath  
RILA Conference Chair  
396 Pontiac Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02910

Dear Karen:

I intended to send this in June, and August is almost over. Where has the summer gone? Letting you know how much I enjoyed working with you and the RILA Conference Committee on the first joint RIEMA/RILA Conference is important to me. Our efforts along with the joint committee produced a conference that went a long way toward meeting the expectations of almost 300 of our colleagues.

The RIEMA Board was disappointed with the number of RIEMA members who attended the conference. Our numbers were about 100 less than the previous year. We were hoping that by getting the conference date out early, more of our members would be able to be released from school for the day. We can only guess at the reasons this did not happen. They are probably a combination of the following: 1) not being released by their school district, 2) not wanting to be away from school on a Monday, 3) not having a "big name" children's or young adult author, or 4) not wanting to travel to Newport again. The low numbers translated into a smaller profit for RIEMA. We really need to make more money with the conference just to support other organizational activities and expenses.

At our annual meeting in May we changed our constitution and by-laws to relieve the president-elect of the responsibility of being conference chair. Once changed, we had to find another member to assume that position. All of these issues contributed to the decision at our June board meeting not to have a joint conference in 1996. Those of us who had worked on the joint conference had very mixed emotions, but we finally agreed that RIEMA should proceed independently. The board recognized the value of collaborating with RILA and would like to consider future joint conferences.

Thanks very much for all of your hospitality at committee meetings. I look forward to working with you in some capacity soon.

Sincerely,

Karen Shore, President  
cc: J. Giles. RILA President

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND

Joan Ress Reeves, Chair



PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

MEMO

TO: Library Advocacy Task Force

FROM: Joan Ress Reeves

DATE: August 30, 1995

By now you must know that the Department of State Library Services will remain a cabinet-level department of state government. The General Assembly has restored the DSLS budget for FY '96 to its 1995 level, and staffing will remain at 24 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees).

That's a tremendous victory for the library community. The alternatives – having DSLS become part of the Department of Education, Draconian budget cuts, staff cuts that would effectively dismantle DSLS – were too awful to contemplate.

No small part of that victory was the result of your efforts as members of the Library Advocacy Task Force and the efforts of the organizations you represent. There's no question that, when we all work together for a cause, we're a formidable power. Just ask the General Assembly.

Thanks to all of you from everyone who loves libraries.

We're especially grateful to Representative David Panciera and Senator Sandra Hanaway, members of the Library Board of Rhode Island, who were key to our success.

Clearly, our work isn't done yet. New problems arise; the 1997 budget looms. We'll start to grapple with all that at our next meeting.

Again, thank you, thank you, for all you're doing for libraries.

300 Richmond Street, Providence, R.I. 02903-4222 Tel: (401) 277-2726



# *A Matter of Heart – Volunteers in Libraries*

## *The RILA Annual Business Meeting and Conference*

The Annual Business Meeting and Conference will be held at the Barrington Public Library on Monday, November 6th. The program “**A Matter of Heart – Volunteers in Libraries**” will feature a panel composed of Dan Austin, Providence Public Library Personnel Director, Betsy Garland from Volunteers in Action, Cheryl McCarthy from the University of Rhode Island Graduate School and Rina McFadden from the Newton Public Library. They will discuss policies and procedures, the glories and pitfalls as well as the pros and cons of using volunteers. There will be lots of samples of policies and procedures from around Rhode Island to take home with you.

Coffee, pastry and registration will be from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., the program with plenty of time for questions and answers will be from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. At 11:45, we will have the business meeting with the election of officers and awards followed by a box lunch at 1:00 p.m. The charge for all this is \$25 (15 for Students and Paraprofessionals, \$35 for Non-Members). Join us for an informative program and to participate in the Rhode Island Library Association, which is only as strong as we want to make it.

---

The *RILA BULLETIN* is published six times per year by the Rhode Island Library Association. Managing Editor: Mattie Gustafson, Newport Public Library, Box 8, Newport, RI 02840 (847-8720); Feature Editors: Wendy Knickerbocker, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908 (456-9605); and Judith Paster, 52 Seaview Avenue, Cranston, RI 02905 (467-8898); News Editor: Frank Iacono, DSLS, 300 Richmond Street, Providence, RI 02903-4222 (277-2754); Subscriptions Editor: John Fobert, Roger Williams University Library, Bristol, RI 02809 (254-3374); Advertising Editor: Cynthia Archambault, Warwick Public Library, Warwick, RI 02886 (739-5440); Feature Columnists: Ann M. Dodge, John Hay Library, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912 (863-1502); Paula Azaar, Providence Public Library, Providence, RI 02903 (455-8000). A current list of RILA Executive Board Members and Committee Chairs is available in Volume 68, No. 1 & 2. Subscriptions: free to members; \$15/year in U.S.; \$20/year foreign. Advertising: \$130 full page; \$65 half page; \$40 quarter page; \$15 business card size. Change of address: members contact the Membership Committee Chair, Myra Blank, 11 Peepoad Road, Warwick, RI 02888, Rhode Island College/Adams Library (456-8190). Subscription correspondence: contact Subscriptions Editor. 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.

**Rhode Island Library Association**  
300 Richmond Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-4222

Non-Profit Org.  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
Providence, R.I.  
PERMIT NO. 210

00387 M

WAR

RITA H. WARNOCK  
271 DOYLE AVENUE  
PROVIDENCE, RI

02906