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RHODE ISLAND Library Association *Bulletin*

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January & February – March & April 1996

Changes...Changes... Changes...

DONNA DUFAULT

THERE HAVE BEEN some major changes in the Rhode Island Library Association since you received your last *Bulletin*. I am sure the *Bulletin's* new format has grabbed your attention today. Hope you like it. Please let us know what you think.

RILA now has a part-time Administrative Assistant to maintain our membership database and to do our mailings. Deby Nunes, part-time cataloging librarian at Warwick Public Library, was selected from the nineteen responses that we had to the Membership Committee's ad in *The Providence Journal*. Please contact her by phone (885-0827) or by e-mail (debyns@rhilinet.gov) if you have any questions or concerns about these areas.

RILA now has a homepage on the Web, thanks to Jim Barrett, RILA's secretary. Please take a look at it: <http://www.library.uri.edu/rila/rila/html>.

Changes are in the works for our annual conference. It will be held on June 6-7 at Johnson & Wales. This is a change from last

(continued on page 7)

Intellectual Freedom Matters

CARLA M. WEISS

THIS IS THE SECOND of an occasional column from the RILA Intellectual Freedom Committee on actions and events of interest. Please address suggestions for future columns and/or questions about IFC activities to me.

Labelling Records and CD's

On the local front, a bill criminalizing the sale of labeled sound recordings to minors has been making its way through the state legislature. On January 25, the Rhode Island House Committee on the Judiciary held a hearing on Bill 96-H7291, introduced by Rep. Bruce Long (R-Middletown) which read in part: "Every person who shall willfully or knowingly engage in the business of selling, *lending*, giving away, playing or distributing to any person under the age of seventeen (17) years or has in his or her possession with intent to engage in that business or to otherwise offer for sale or commercial distribution to any person under the age of seventeen (17) years any audio recording, including without limitation, tape compact disc or phonograph, which bears the notification 'Parental Advisory Explicit Lyrics' or words to like effect shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200)."

Representatives from the Rhode Island American Civil Liberties Union, the Recording Industry Association of America, the RILA IFC, and proprietors of music retail stores in the area testified against the proposed legislation. The testimony centered on the questionable constitutionality of the bill.

At present, record companies voluntarily label recordings with parental advisory stickers. Not all companies comply with this and there are many recordings which could be construed as having explicit lyrics but do not carry warning labels. The fact that a recording is labeled as having explicit lyrics does not mean that the lyrics would necessarily be considered obscene according to the three-part test established by the U.S. Supreme

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Court in *Miller v. California* (1973). By criminalizing the sale, distribution, and lending of labeled recordings to minors, the state would prevent minors from purchasing materials that may be protected by the First Amendment. Furthermore, retailers may decide not to carry labeled recordings for fear of mistakenly selling them to a minor. This would then limit for adults access to material that is constitutionally protected.

Bills similar to the one introduced in Rhode Island have been submitted in other states and municipalities in the United States. To date, these bills have not passed, have been vetoed, or have been declared unconstitutional by state supreme courts.

At the hearing, Rep. Charles Knowles (D-Narragansett), chair of the Judiciary Committee, suggested that an amendment could be made to the existing state obscenity law (*Rhode Island General Laws* Section 11-31-1) which prohibits the sale of indecent publications, pictures, or articles to minors. "Indecent to minors" is defined as appealing "to the prurient interest in sex of minors, is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community with respect to what is suitable material for minors, and lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value for minors." The state obscenity law follows the same guidelines as established in *Miller v. California*.

As chair of the IFC, I testified at the January hearing that the use of the word "lending" had implications for libraries and would contradict the basic tenets of the ALA *Library Bill of Rights* and its interpretations. Rep. Long responded that he did not intend to include libraries in the legislation.

Rep. Long has since rejected the idea of the original bill, but has asked that the state obscenity law be amended to include labeled recordings. The committee was scheduled to meet by April 1 to consider the amended statute.

RILA Legislative Day at the State House on February 14 featured exhibits, displays, and demonstrations showcasing the library services and programs currently available in the state. Program Director Donna Stevens staffs the LARK (Library and Reading Kit) booth.



Photo by Joe McGovern, DSLS

It is important, nevertheless, to monitor the progress of the amendment and the exact language that is used. Will the law prohibit only labeled recordings, or recordings that are considered obscene by Supreme Court standards? If labeled recordings are prohibited, there may be some question as to how some of these recordings would be considered indecent to minors as defined in the law. How might libraries be affected by the amendment since the existing law uses the terminology "lending?"

Several articles have appeared in the local press on the proposed legislation. For further information see: *The Providence Journal-Bulletin*, Jan. 26, 1996, p. B1, 3; *The Providence Journal-Bulletin*, Feb. 14, 1996, p. B2; *The Providence Phoenix*, Mar. 8, 1996, p. 2.

Help From ALA

There are three interpretations of the *Library Bill of Rights* that libraries can look to if there is concern about how to handle labeled sound recordings in library collections. "Free Access to Libraries for Minors" is the general statement of ALA's opposition to attempts to restrict access to library services, materials, and facilities based on the age of library users. "Access for Children and Young People to Videotapes and Other Nonprint Formats" states that "unless directly and specifically prohibited by law from circulating certain motion

pictures and video productions to minors, librarians should apply the same standards to circulation of these materials as are applied to books and other materials." "Statement on Labeling" points out that rating and labeling systems promulgated by private organizations do not yet have the purport of law and are therefore unconstitutional. Libraries should not, however, remove or obliterate ratings if they are placed by or with permission of the copyright holder. This would be considered another form of censorship.

Communications Decency Act

The enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (PL 104-104), signed by President Clinton on February 8, has resulted in legal actions taken by ALA and other organizations concerned with censorship. One provision of the law, referred to as the Communications Decency Act, imposes criminal penalties for the transmission or receipt over the Internet of material that may be considered "indecent" or "patently offensive" to minors. A lawsuit filed by the ACLU in the District Court of Philadelphia seeks to eliminate the entire section banning the dissemination of "indecent" materials to minors. The ALA, along with twenty-two co-plaintiffs including the American Booksellers Association, the Association of American Publishers,



Photo by Joe McGovern, DSLIS

Bryant College Library
Director Mary Moroney and
CRIARL Executive Secretary
Alison Maxell exchange hel-
los at the CRIARL exhibit of
RILA Legislative Day.

America Online, Compuserve, and Prodigy, filed another lawsuit on February 26 which challenges the decency provisions of the act on the grounds that it is a violation of the First Amendment rights of all Internet users. The lawsuit alleges that the "Act is vague, overbroad, and not the least restrictive means to ensure that children do not have access to obscene or pornographic materials."

Both lawsuits were consolidated and should have been heard before a three-judge panel on March 21 and 22. In all probability the case will continue to the Supreme Court and it is ALA's estimate that a final decision on the constitutionality of the statute will be made in the spring of 1997.

ALA advises that libraries practice business as usual regarding Internet usage. ALA counsel believes that there is little or no risk of prosecution of libraries for violation of the law while the lawsuit is pending. The organization suggests that the new interpretation on access to electronic information be used by libraries in framing a policy on Internet usage.

On-line Sites

A Communications Decency Act of 1996 Discussion Group has been set up on the Internet. To subscribe, send

e-mail to: listproc@williamette.edu and type in the following: sub cda96-1 <your name>. There is also a Web site at <http://www/eff/org/blueribbon.html> for the Blue Ribbon Anti-Censorship Campaign. Through this Web site, anyone who is interested may add his or her name to the list of plaintiffs in the case against the Communications Decency Act.

There are two additional Internet sites which may be of interest. Banned Books On-Line, which contains information from *Academe Today* on twenty-three books that have been banned or censored, can be reached at: <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/Web/People/spok/banned-books.html>. To subscribe to the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom listserv, send e-mail to: listproc@ala.ala.org and type in the following: sub alaof<your name>.

At the RILA spring conference on June 6, the IFC will sponsor a talk by David Macksam, Director of the Cranston Public Library, on his experience at the Clermont County Public Library in Ohio regarding challenges to the library's subscription to the magazine *The Advocate*. Check the conference program for the time and location of the IFC presentation.

— Carla M. Weiss is Reference Librarian at the James P. Adams Library of Rhode Island College.

Riverwalk Ramblings ALA Midwinter 1996

FRANK IACONO

SAN ANTONIO, home of the famed Alamo, the estimable Riverwalk, and handy Taco Cabanas, drew a record 7,358 paid attendees for the ALA Midwinter Conference in January. And it was a very positive get-together, highlighted by Council's reaffirmation by acclamation of the Library Bill of Rights and its unanimous approval of the much-needed Library Bill of Rights interpretation, "Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks." ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee, particularly its chair Candace Morgan, deserves a medal for the numerous hours spent (before and during the conference) weighing comments, writing, and re-writing this document, which has such important implications for libraries providing or planning to provide public access to the Internet.

With the recent passage of the Communications Decency Act (CDA), a portion of the recently enacted Telecommunications Act, libraries, when acting as content providers, are liable for anything that can be deemed "indecent" or "patently offensive." On February 26, ALA led a broad coalition of twenty-two organizations, called the Citizens Internet Empowerment Coalition, in a lawsuit challenging the CDA as a violation of the First Amendment rights of all Internet users. (See "Intellectual Freedom Matters" elsewhere in the Bulletin for more information.)

Other Midwinter notes and observations:

- Council approved a recommendation from the ALA Awards Committee to establish an Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award to "recognize and honor a librarian

who invests time and talent to make positive change in the profession of librarianship, who takes risks to further the cause, who helps new librarians grow and achieve, who works for change within ALA or other library organizations, and who inspires colleagues to excel or to make the impossible possible."

- Under the guidance of outgoing treasurer Ann Symons, ALA's net worth has increased from \$9 million to almost \$13 million. Future challenges include funding ALA Goal 2000 initiatives and dealing with increasing conference costs.
- ALA's Fund for America's Libraries exceeded its first-year goal of \$4 million by receiving more than \$6 million in only the first eight months of its existence.
- Attending my first meeting of the Freedom to Read Foundation (FRF) as Chapter Relations Committee representative, I couldn't help being extremely impressed by the spirit, dedication, and expertise of the Foundation's board members – librarians, lawyers, and writers keeping ALA the force that it is when it comes to opposing censorship in all its forms. The Foundation deserves our support now more than ever. How about becoming a member if you're not already; call me for an application.
- The Office for Intellectual Freedom reported that *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou, topped the list of 1995's most challenged books, and a total of 740 challenges to school, school library, and public library materials was reported last year.
- An excellent seven-page publication, *Coping With Challenges: Strategies and Tips for Dealing with Challenges to Library Materials*, was distributed at the conference and is a must-have

for all libraries. It is available from the ALA Public Information Office.

- Look for a regular column featuring ALA's chapters starting with the May issue of *American Libraries*. This resulted from meetings between ALA staff and representatives of the Chapter Relations Committee.
- Copies of *Questions and Answers About the Fund for America's Libraries* and *ALA Goal 2000 Update* came home with me from San Antonio and are yours for the asking.
- Visit the new San Antonio Public Library if you ever get the chance. While *enchilada red* might not be everyone's favorite color, a spectacular combination of form and function awaits the visitor inside.

— Frank Iacono,
ALA Councilor

BULLETIN BOARD

ALA has a homepage and NELA has a listserv. ALA can be reached at: <http://www.ala.org> and the NELA listserv can be subscribed to by e-mailing majordomo@world.std.com, leaving the subject line blank, and typing the message "subscribe nela-1."



The Redwood Library and Athenaeum recently received a grant of \$87,825 from The Champlin Foundations for the purchase of equipment to begin conversion of cataloging information into electronic form, to establish a World Wide Web catalog, and to automate circulation and inventory records.

RILA '96 Spring Conference

June 6 & 7

"Gearing Up for Change"

KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNE WOLPERT, Director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Library, will bring RILA's spring conference into focus when she addresses the theme of "Gearing Up for Change" as Thursday evening's after-dinner speaker. This year's two-day conference at the Johnson & Wales Harborside Campus facility offers a host of programs with practical advice and solutions to the problems brought on by our transition to a high-technology information age. While much of our attention is taken up with the new technology, librarians cannot lose sight of the value of fundamental services and issues of librarianship such as literacy, preservation, management, censorship, and public relations.

On the technology side the conference offers programs on: "LANs: The Manager's Perspective"; "Countdown to Cyber-Government"; "Stand & Deliver: Choices for Document Delivery"; "World Wide Web Swinging with Kids"; "Useful Internet Resources for Medical Questions"; and "Copyright in the Electronic Age."

On the fundamentals side programs are planned on: "The Art of Managing and Mismanaging"; "Linking Libraries with Literacy for the Adult Learner"; "Fighting the Challenge to *The Advocate* in Ohio"; "Getting Your Library in Print"; and "Spreading the Wealth: The Library's Role in Community Economic Development." Other programs incorporate technology and basics, trying to advise on how to handle the change: "Outsourcing: Pros and Cons"; "Electronic Reference Resources: The Reference Librarian's Perspective"; "Preservation: The Library's Sport Utility Vehicle"; and

**"Alternative Careers for Librarians:
Finding a Job Beyond the Stacks."**

The Rhode Island Library Association Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, from 11:15-12:15. After a full day of sessions on Thursday, registrants are invited to stay for a cocktail hour from 5:00-6:00 (cash bar). Dinner is from 6:00-7:00 (additional cost), and the keynote speaker is scheduled for 7:00. Registration both Thursday and Friday is from 8:00-9:00 a.m. Programs begin at 9:00. Lunch is included with the registration fee. Conference brochures with full schedule program and cost information will be available in late April. Check the LORI RILA SIG, and/or RILA's new homepage for additional information.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 14-20	National Library Week
May 7	National Library Legislative Day, Washington, DC
May 30-31	NELINET ILL Spring Meeting, University of New England, Biddeford, Maine
June 6-7	RILA Spring Conference, Johnson & Wales University
July 4-10	ALA Annual Conference, New York

PEOPLE

Chaichin Chen is the new State Publications Clearinghouse Director at the Rhode Island State Library.

Norman Desmarais, Acquisitions Librarian at Providence College, recently completed his sabbatical. During this time he worked on a multimedia CD-ROM titled "The American Revolution." The CD-ROM, published in January, is part of the "American Journey: History in Your Hands" series published by Primary Source Media in Woodbridge, CT.

Celeste Dyer recently was named Reference Librarian at Cumberland Public Library.

Deby Nunes has been appointed RILA's Administrative Assistant. She currently is a part-timer for the Warwick Public Library's technical services department and has been hired by RILA to maintain the Association's membership database and mailing lists and coordinate all RILA bulk mailings.

Representative **David Panciera** received COLA's (Coalition of Library Advocates) "Sweetheart of the Year" award at its annual meeting in February.

Shannon Pimental is the new Director of the Ashaway Free Library in Hopkinton.

Michael Silvia, Reference & Adult Services Librarian at the Woonsocket-Harris Public Library, represented RILA at a training session for members of the newly formed Libraries on the Information Superhighway Network (LISAN) in Washington, DC in December. LISAN was established by LITA (Library & Information Technology Division) and ALA's Office of Information Technology Policy. LISAN mem-

bers will be available to speak and write on all aspects of libraries and the information superhighway.

Donna Stevens, former LARK Program Director at Providence Public Library, is now a school librarian at the Providence Street School in West Warwick.

Madeleine Telfeyan, Director of the RI Historical Society Library, is the new Chair of COLA.

Professor **Jonathan Tryon** recently was appointed Director of the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library and Information Studies.

Road Trip!

RILA and the GSLIS are chartering a bus to go to ALA in New York City for the day, on Sunday, July 7, 1996. Bus fare will cost \$18-\$25 depending on the number of people, size of bus required, etc. Call Rosemary (874-2947) or Faye Zipkowitz (874-4652) at the Library School, for more information.

The Bulletin Readership Survey

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Please keep those comments coming! We need to know what you think and what you want. Please share your news with us, too, so that we may share it with the rest of RILA. Feel free to suggest or to submit articles. The *Bulletin's* editors are responsible for the *Bulletin's* contents and therefore we retain the right to select and to edit articles, but we welcome your contributions. This is YOUR *Bulletin*, and we all want it to be as good and as interesting as it can be.

— The RILA Publications Committee

Workshops in the New England Area

The following workshops will be given by the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System. For current information please call Ellen Rauch at (617) 536-4010.

April 23, 1996 and May 30, 1996

"Library Binding as a Preservation Option." Call for information about locations.

May 7, 1996 and June 4, 1996

"Library and Archival Security." The location of the May 7th workshop is to be announced. The workshop on June 4th will be at the Middleborough Public Library, Middleborough, MA.

New Publication Available

The Texas Memorial Museum has issued Conservation Note, Number 20: "Boxing Up Your Collections: How Safe are They?" It sells for \$1 and is available from: Publications Distribution, Texas Memorial Museum, The University of Texas at Austin, 2400 Trinity, Austin, Texas 78701 (512) 471-1604.

Other titles of interest include Number 19: "Curatorial Care of Art on Paper Collections: A Review of Matting and Hinging;" and Number 3: "Enclosures for Housing Photographic Negatives."

The Commission on Preservation and Access has published *New Tools for Preservation: Assessing Long-Term Environmental Effects on Library and Archival Collections*. This publication "illustrates ... how relatively small changes in storage conditions can result in significant improvement in the useful life of library and archives collections." The report is available for \$10 from: Commission on Preservation and Access; 1400 16th Street NW, Suite 740; Washington, DC 20036.

Recent Articles

Janet Brennan Croft in her article "Mold Fighting on a Tight Budget" that appeared in the Winter, 1996 issue of *Archival Products News* mentions several important factors when dealing with an outbreak of mold. She talks about the importance of using safety equipment when near moldy items: i.e., mask, gloves, and eye protection. The author also mentions the use of light in controlling a mold problem.

The March, 1996 issue of *American Libraries* contains a cautionary tale about a disaster averted. The Naval Historical Center Library, in Washington, DC, was closed because of an early January blizzard. January 11 was the only day during the week that staff were able to make it in to work. "Director William Dudley noticed that the chimney of an adjoining three-story building was leaning dangerously toward dead center of the library's already ailing roof." The staff of the library went into action and removed irreplaceable and valuable library materials. Two days later the chimney did topple and crash through the roof. "Because of the staff's preparedness, some 170,000 volumes in the historical library remained untouched."

WWW Information

Jim Linder of VidiPax has set up a homepage. The URL is: <http://www.panix.com/~vidipax/>. Among other things at this Web site are two articles of interest to librarians: "Digitization Reconsidered" and "Magnetic Tape Deterioration: Tidal Wave at Our Shores."

Please get in touch with me if there are any subjects concerning preservation that you would like to see covered in future columns.

— Ann M. Dodge
Conservator at the John Hay
Library of Brown University.

RILA Nominates Five for ALA Honor Roll

In celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the ALA Washington Office in May, each ALA chapter was invited to nominate up to five individuals (equaling one per decade) for the office's Anniversary Honor Roll. Nominees could be living or deceased, "who were or are involved in the federal legislative successes or policy advances developed or promoted by ALA." In response to this invitation, the RILA Executive Board, at their February meeting, chose the Association's nominees. Here it should be noted that Senator Claiborne Pell, as one of ALA's Honorary Members, has been chosen for special recognition by the ALA Washington Office at its May celebration, and therefore was not included. RILA's nominees are:

The late **Congressman John E. Fogarty**, who is recognized as the first "library champion" in Congress because of his leadership role in drafting and enacting the first library laws of the land.

The late **Elizabeth Gallup Myer**, Rhode Island's first Director of Public Library Services in Rural Areas (1958-1964) and first Director of the Department of State Library Services. Elizabeth Myer is known as the person who got Congressman Fogarty interested in libraries.

Congressman Jack Reed, who also is recognized as a library champion in Congress because of the legislation he has sponsored on behalf of school libraries and his support of improved library services and increased funding in general.

Joan Ress Reeves, Rhode Island's premier library advocate, who has served on the American Library Association's Legislation Committee, has been co-chair of ALA's Task

Force on LSCA Reauthorization, has chaired the White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIST) Task Force, and has testified before Congress and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS).

Carol K. DiPrete, for her work as a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS).

Members of the Anniversary Honor Roll will be formally recognized at the gala ALA Washington Office 50th Anniversary Dinner in Washington on May 6th.

MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

RILA HAS A NEW state-of-the-art membership database! We listened to your comments and suggestions and embarked on a total upgrade and "renovation" of the membership database. Database consultant Dana Ryan was hired in January to engineer a system that would enable us to maintain our member list efficiently and generate statistics, reports, and, most importantly, our own mailing labels.

In March, Deby Nunes, RILA's new Administrative Assistant, helped us with the second phase of the membership mailing that you recently received. Deby is a technical services librarian at Warwick Public Library and is a veritable whiz with computers. Her expertise with computers and familiarity with libraries will be a tremendous asset in maintaining an accurate membership database and handling all of RILA's future mailings. Deby can be reached by courier at Warwick Public Library (ILL code is WAR); by telephone at 885-0827; or via e-mail at debyns@dsl.rhinet.gov.

Our thanks to those of you who have already sent in your 1996 RILA dues! To those of you who have not yet done so, we urge you to take a

minute to do so today. Your membership dues directly support all of RILA's activities from the upcoming Spring Conference to programs like the RILA Career Day at URI.

The RILA Second Annual Career Day, which is sponsored by the Membership Committee, will be held in URI Library's Galanti Lounge on Wednesday, April 24th from 12-3. Anyone interested in a career in librarianship or simply interested in libraries is welcome to attend.

Your 1996 RILA membership card to be arriving soon after you renew. The card entitles you to a 10% professional discount at any of the following locations.

Aardvark Picture Frame Company
5792 Post Road
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

Apple Eyewear
Koch Eye Building
566 Tollgate Road
Warwick, Rhode Island

College Hill Bookstore
252 Thayer Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Little Professor Book Center
University Heights Shopping Center
North Main Street
Providence, Rhode Island

National Car Rental
All six locations

Twice Told Tales
2210 Broad Street
Cranston, Rhode Island

Thanks again for your patience and input during our review and renovation of the membership database.

Patience Bliss
Carol DiPrete
Co-Chairs

Changes...Changes... Changes...

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year's joint conference with RIEMA, and the location is a new one, but it is a return to our long-established format and time of year.

Changes are everywhere. I am now never quite sure what the next six months will look like in the library. I'm sure you will agree with me that we all need to learn to plan for change and realize that this is the *major* professional concern that we will face in the next few years.

RILA's at home on the web!
See the new Home Page at:
<http://www.library.uri.edu/rila/rila/html>.

In order to help us with this challenge, I have asked an expert in this area to be the Presidential Speaker at the RILA conference on Thursday evening, June 6. Ann Wolpert, newly appointed University Librarian at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will share her ideas and insights. We all need to learn to take charge of our ever-changing environment, no matter if we are involved with children's services, technical services, administration, reference, or circulation, or whether we work in public, academic, special, or school libraries.

I hope you like the changes and our attempts to help deal with change. Please let me know if you see any other areas in RILA that need to be evaluated and, perhaps, changed.

Donna

Donna Dufault,
President
Rhode Island Library Association

The *Bulletin* Readership Survey

In January the Publications Committee sent a survey on the *Bulletin* to about half of RILA's members. Some sixty-five of you responded, and we are grateful for and encouraged by your interest. More than two-thirds of you are generally satisfied with the *Bulletin's* content and usually read it all. You sent us useful suggestions for changes, and we will try to incorporate your ideas over the coming year.

Most of you want to continue receiving the *Bulletin* in hard copy. Many of you suggested posting news items, event notices, and selected reports on LORI, and we will investigate that.

Almost all of you agreed with us that the *Bulletin* needed a makeover. Several of you also want us to include more photographs, and we will try. This issue sports our new look. We have used a different kind of paper, redesigned the nameplate and the layout, and made the text less dense. Do you like it?

In terms of the *Bulletin's* content, most of you want more news of people and specific libraries. You want to know about people, ideas, grants, buildings, programs, and services at Rhode Island's libraries. We could really use your help in this area. If you think someone or something in your library (or any other library) is particularly interesting, please let us know. (Our names and phone numbers are still on the back page.) Better still, write it up for us; we welcome your submissions.

Many of you also want us to cover more current issues and developments within our field. You would like those articles to be more practical than theoretical: to relate how other libraries (especially in our region) have dealt with specific issues. Again, we can use your help. If you would like to suggest (or to write!) an article, please let us know.

Several of you enjoyed our holiday book list and would like to see more lists of recommended books. You suggested lists of books on topics of special interest and lists of materials about Rhode Island and/or by Rhode Island authors.

Finally, some of you want to see more articles on library technology. Some also want political news and news on legislation that affects libraries. Others want some reports from RILA's committees and the Executive Board.

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