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RILA

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RHODE ISLAND Library Association *Bulletin*

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November & December 1997

President's Message

KATHY ELLEN BULLARD

RECENTLY, I DECIDED THAT WE NEEDED A CONSULTANT to help us decide if bookmobile services were warranted or sustainable here in Woonsocket. I contacted a consultant who had provided us with our building program. He referred me to Sheldon Kaye, Director of Portland, Maine Public Library. Of course there are librarians here in Rhode Island with bookmobile experience. But I wanted a completely fresh perspective, and not someone tainted by any preconceptions about Woonsocket.

Sheldon came down and spent an entire morning with me talking about our city, our budget, our goals, and ultimately where bookmobile service would fit in with that. And he did it all for free. He told me that other librarians had given him valuable advice when he needed it and he was thus obligated to do likewise. It's that kind of human resource sharing that we perhaps don't do enough of—not because people aren't willing in theory, but because they don't make the time in reality.

At the RILA Fall Conference, Diane Frankel, Executive Director of the Institute of Museum and

continued on page 4

Survey Summary Report

Summer 1997 Survey of RILA Members and Immediate Past Members

RILA EXECUTIVE BOARD

GENERAL INFORMATION

How survey was conducted

The survey form was preliminarily discussed at a spring 1997 Executive Board meeting and then designed by David Macksam and Derryl Johnson with final Executive Board approval. The survey was then mailed in July to 411 names. The names consisted of all 272 current RILA members, and 139 former members.

Tabulation

Responses were sent to Kathy Ellen Bullard, and tabulated initially by her and Donna Dufault. Some questions did not require ranking and were tabulated by a simple count. Those questions requiring ranking were tabulated four different ways in order to verify validity:

- by adding a question's first three rankings;
- by assigning a weighted ranking to the first three responses and then adding them;
- by assigning a weighted ranking to all of the rankings in a question; and
- by a simple majority vote.

All four tabulations are available from any Executive Board member.

There were some cases in which it was obvious which item was ranked number 1. However, it might not be as obvious which was 2 and so on. Also, there were instances in which it was clear that there was no definite number 1, 2, or 3, and by strictly going only by a majority count method, it could eliminate other top concerns. When tabulated with a method other than popular vote, most of the rankings, particularly the top 4, were consistent. Using only a majority vote resulted in consistencies in lower priorities, but less in higher priorities, however, not substantially so. Thus, for the purposes of this article, and in the interest of space, we are presenting the results with just two tabulation methods. Column "a" thus represents three of the four methods.

- (a) the first three rankings were added together for a total, and the survey rankings were determined then by those totals. *This ranking is column*

What's Inside...

President's Message	1
Survey Summary Report.....	2
Preservation Update	5
RILA Fall Conference	6
Editor's Notebook	back cover

(a) on tabulation sheets. For example: if "A" received 4 number 1 votes, 14 number 2 votes, and 17 number 3 votes, it has a total of 35 votes. This method takes into account an item's overall depth of importance, rather than restricting it just to number 1 votes.

- (b) this is based on "popular" vote. However the simple majority of responses ranked a particular item determined its overall ranking. *This ranking is column (b) on tabulation sheets.* For example: in "A" the number one vote getter was number 3, in "B" the number one vote getter was number 3, in "C" it was number 1, in "D" it was number 5. In the case of a tie, the actual total determined which would proceed the other. If in "A" the number of votes cast for number 3 was 17 and in "B" the number of votes cast for number 3 was 24, then B would be number 3 and A would be number 4. It sounds more confusing than it really is. This method does not take into account overall strength, but it did help us to verify that the other methods seemed to be on target.

This is a long range plan and as such need not concentrate on only the number 1 rankings, but must determine the top priorities. All of the methods seemed to attain that goal.

General Information re: responses

- 119 responses were received by September 25. This is a 28.95% response rate. Six responses were received after September 25.
- Of that 119, 20 were non-members of RILA, indicating 16.8% response rate Of that 119, 99 were current members of RILA, indicating 83.2% response rate Of the current members who responded for which such information is available, 46 are employed in public libraries, 10 are trustees, 19 are in academic institutions, four in schools, six in special libraries, two are professors, one student,

and one bookstore worker/owner.

- As there are currently approximately 272 individual members, the response rate of members equaled 35.3%.
- Also of note is that few responses included any comments.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF SURVEY

At the Executive Board there was much discussion about the fact that the survey did not ask respondents to rate items "very important", "important", etc., but asked only that items be prioritized. Some Executive Board members stressed that we must not assume that any item is unimportant because it was ranked low, but only that it was less important. Other Executive Board members stressed that organizations with limited resources must prioritize and must then plan according to those priorities, even if it means doing so between important and very important items. Below are some of the highlights.

"DEFINITE" Conclusions of the Survey

- RILA membership should consider re-adoption of its former mission statement (with addition of library students)
- There should be serious exploration into combining Federal Relations Committee with Government Relations Committee, resulting in a single committee charged with advocacy, lobbying, legislation at all levels.
- RILA's top four priorities should be:
 - a. governmental/legislation/lobbying
 1. state funding 25%
 2. multi type library coop.
 3. construction/capital improvement
 - b. continuing education (technology, customer service, program/service innovations)
 - c. public relations/ promoting profession & services

d. cooperating/partnering/working with other types of libraries (continuing ed., conferences)

- As Membership Committee is ranked number 1 committee, recruitment to the committee and to RILA must be a priority, as well.
- Conference Committee should be charged with serious exploration of joint conference ideas
- Publications Committee should be charged with finding ways of lowering the cost of RILA *Bulletin* budget in light of priorities/rankings and our resources
- A Continuing Education committee must be created and given support in its activities

"POSSIBLE" Conclusions

- RILA Executive Board and Nominating Committee should consider ways for a two-year Presidency to be instituted, and if such a way could be feasible, should submit that idea to general membership.
- The structure of the fall conference should be explored by the Conference Committee, the Exec. Board, and the Continuing Education Committee
- The concept of a single umbrella organization for all types of librarians/libraries should be explored for feasibility

Problems, inconsistencies

There was a great deal of confusion in Question 4 re: federal relations, government (local, state & fed), and government relations. Many expressed confusion. It was unclear that only federal and gov. relations exist now, and that if you thought combining them was a good idea, then you would check government (local, state & fed). However, judging by the comments, it was clear that the consensus was to at least explore combining committees.

Survey Results

Question 2 did not need rankings as there was overwhelmingly agreement among respondents.

There was also some confusion due to the fact that Question 4 asked respondents to rank two types of committees, the internal kind necessary for functioning (e.g. membership, nominations, budget) and the external kind which an organization chooses to form. Mixing apples and oranges may have resulted in a less reliable response.

The respondents are indicating that continuing education is a priority. However, it is not completely clear what is meant by that term, particularly in light of the fall conference and the RILA *Bulletin* being ranked fairly low.

RESPONDENT COMMENTS:

There were some cogent comments which are offered below:

One survey suggested returning to electing the officers. Two surveys added that appropriate RILA target would include library school faculty, government officials, and booklovers/collectors. Other committees suggested included liaison committee to link all library groups through continuing ed. programs, and round tables for academic, special, and children's librarians. One respondent suggested that Question 7 did not present the options clearly, sounding instead as if we were looking to adopt the priorities of other groups, rather than RILA's.

One survey pointed out some grammatical errors in the mission statement (can you find them?). Another respondent stated that they did not feel that RILA have the membership, budget or leadership to promote or provide continuing ed. Three surveys included new mission statements, and one survey stated flatly that RILA should pick three priorities and pursue them fully and not attempt to be more than is possible or feasible. Lastly, one survey suggested adding "library students" to the first mission statement.

Q1. Which of these mission statements do you prefer to describe YOUR organization:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 96 | "The Rhode Island Library Association is a professional and educational organization consisting of librarians, library staff, trustees, and library supporters, whose purpose is to promote the profession of librarianship and to improve the visibility, accessibility, responsiveness and effectiveness of library and information services through Rhode Island." |
| 16 | "The Rhode Island Library Association is a professional organization for librarians, support staff, and library school students, whose purpose is educating its members and promoting the importance of libraries in today's society." |
| 6 | Other, please be as specific as possible. |

Q2. The target population for RILA membership should include the following groups: (please rank in order of importance on a scale of 1-8 with #1 equaling the most important)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| 5 | library friends (groups and individuals) | 7 | vendors |
| 4 | trustees of libraries | 1 | librarians |
| 6 | library patrons | 2 | library support staff (at any level) |
| 3 | library students | 8 | other |

Q3. What priorities should RILA pursue for the next three years, 1998-2001? (please rank in order of importance on a scale of 1-11 with #1 equaling most important)

- | | | |
|-------|-------|--|
| (a) 6 | (b) 4 | intellectual freedom advocacy |
| 2 | 5 | development of continuing education activities |
| 3 | 2 | promote our profession and its services (e.g. LTV, Nat.Lib. Wk, press releases) |
| 5 | 6 | continue strong program emphasis at spring conference |
| 10 | 7 | encourage student involvement in Association activities and programs |
| 8 | 8 | encourage trustee involvement in Association acts. and progs. |
| 1 | 1 | library legislation and lobbying activities |
| 4 | 3 | strengthen communication linkages between all types of libraries (public, special, school, and academic) |
| 7 | 9 | publications (e.g. RILA <i>Bulletin</i> , membership directory) |
| 9 | 10 | continue program component at fall conference |
| 11 | 11 | other |

Q4. What committees should RILA have in order to support our programs? (please rank in order of importance on a scale of 1-14 with # 1 equaling the most important)

- | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|----------------------|
| (a) 2 | (b) 4 | continuing education | (a) 8 | (b) 8 | budget and finance |
| 10 | 13 | federal relations | 5 | 3 | government relations |
| 3 | 1 | government
(local,state,fed) | 6 | 6 | conference |
| 13 | 11 | nominations | 9 | 7 | intellectual freedom |
| 4 | 5 | public relations | 11 | 10 | trustee affairs |
| 1 | 2 | membership | 12 | 12 | personnel |
| 7 | 9 | publications | 13 | 14 | other |

Survey Results (continued)

Q5. Should RILA consider making any of the following offices two-year terms: President, Vice President/President-Elect, and/or Secretary?

88 YES

33 NO

If yes, please indicate which:

69 President

61 Vice President/President Elect

70 Secretary

2 Other: treasurer

Q6. If you believe continuing education is an important aspect of RILA, please rank the following areas of possible programming in order of preference in a scale of 1-9 with #1 equaling the most important:

(a) (b)

1 1 computer/technology skills

5 5 marketing and promotion techniques

2 2 customer service

4 4 staff management

3 3 program and service innovations

7 6 trustee development

8 7 internships

6 8 LTA-style certification programs

9 9 other

Q7. If you believe strong legislative activity is an important aspect of RILA, please rank the possible legislative activities in order of importance on a scale of 1-6 with # 1 equaling the most important.

(a) (b)

3 2 library construction and capital improvement program

5 4 CRIARL initiatives (including updating union list of serials in RI)

2 3 multi-type library cooperation

4 5 RIEMA initiatives (including enhanced state-wide delivery service)

1 1 state funding of local libraries equal to 25% of municipal appropriation (RI General Laws 29-6-2)

6 6 other

Q8. RILA has been approached by other professional associations about co-sponsoring programs that address mutual interests. Should RILA pursue joint conference opportunities with neighboring state library associations and other library-related organizations with the state?

80 Good idea

37 Possible idea

1 No way

Q9. Would the interest of the Rhode Island library community best be served by a single library organization (association, federal) comprising all statewide library associations and organizations now operating separately in the state?

41 Good idea

60 Possible idea

15 No way

Late-Breaking News!

Frances Farrell-Bergeron, Director of the West Warwick Public Library, and Host of L-TV, Library TV has received an award from the organization "Women in Cable" for this unique television production.

L-TV, the nation's only library-oriented program regularly scheduled on cable television, is available on all Rhode Island local cable TV systems.

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

Library Services told us that we must broaden our definition of resource sharing to include more human resource sharing. We're fortunate that Rhode Island's size encourages information sharing. But RILA must strive to help maximize it. Which brings me to two important points.

First, the RILA listserv is for that kind of information sharing of an informal, frequent nature. It has the potential to be an additional, effective access point for gathering information about a particular topic. But it takes people—not technology—to make it function!

Secondly, RILA is forming a Continuing Education Committee. RILA hopes to be just one of several organizations addressing the CE needs of the library community. But again, it will need the sharing of human resources to be effective. Participation on a RILA committee can itself be a great human resource sharing experience. Contact Frank Iacono at OLIS to join that committee.

Let's share our wealth—our human capital.

Preservation Update

by Ann Morgan Dodge



Videotape Available

Terry Sanders has finished his new film on the impending crisis in preserving digital information. The film, "Into the Future: On the Preservation of Knowledge in the Electronic Age", is available in both a one hour and a half hour versions from the American Film Foundation.

The film explores the question of whether or not people will have access to information that has been recorded electronically. This film is a sequel to "Slow Fires: On the Preservation of the Human Record". Like its predecessor, "Into the Future" is narrated by Robert MacNeil. The film may be ordered from

American Film Foundation
P. O. Box 2000
Santa Monica, CA 90406.

One hour VHS: \$59.50 plus shipping and handling
Half hour VHS: \$39.50 plus shipping and handling

For additional information the American Film Foundation can be reached by telephone at (213) 459-2116 or by FAX at (213) 3941 260.

Article on Photographs

The September, 1997 issue of College and Research Libraries News contains an article by Gary Albright on the care of photographs. The author is Senior Conservator at the Northeast Document Conservator Center. The article discusses the effect of temperature and humidity on photographs, proper

handling and non-damaging protective enclosures.

Disaster Recovery Wheel

The National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property and the Getty Conservation Institute have created an "Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel". It is "an inter-active slide chart designed to provide staff with quick access to essential information on protecting and salvaging collections."

The wheel is for use in the first 48 hours of a natural disaster or other emergency. One side of the wheel provides information on emergency response steps and the other side has tips about salvage for various types of materials. There is also a short "salvage glossary" on one side of the wheel, the other side has space for important numbers.

The wheel is available from:

The National Institute for Conservation
3299 K Street, Suite 602
Washington, DC 20007-4415.

The cost to non-profit or government agencies is \$5.95 each, for others the cost is \$9.95. The supply is limited.

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

Ann Morgan Dodge
Conservator
John Hay Library
Brown University

PEOPLE

Faith Davidson, a recent URI GSLIS graduate, is the first official Archivist/Librarian for the Mohegan Tribe, in Uncas CT. She is a Mohegan tribal member, and rapidly expanding her Archives with recent acquisitions.

Ken Morse, Reference Librarian in the Physical Sciences, at University of Rhode Island Libraries, retired from URI, effective the 19th of December 1997. Ken was the founding Librarian of the Pell Marine Sciences Library. He is retiring after twenty-four years of service at URI.

Mary MacDonald, formerly in the URI Library Government Documents section, is now the Head of Reference for Johnson & Wales University.

William Anger (your Editor), Deborah Hobday, and James Salisbury have been appointed Reference Librarians (part-time) for the Phillips Memorial Library, of Providence College. Deborah is a Library Media Specialist at LaSalle Academy. Jim is a Library Media Specialist in the Attleboro Public School system.

Nicholas Wharton has accepted a temporary one-year position of Information Delivery Systems Librarian, at Brown University Libraries.

RISD has promoted Andrew Martinez to the position of Archivist. He formerly was Assistant Archivist and Director of the Horn Gallery. Douglas Doe is an Archival Technician. Funding is from a NHPRC grant.

Roger William University School of Law Library has appointed Kathleen MacAndrew to the post of Catalog Librarian.

Kate Woodhouse is the new Director of Technical Services at the Providence Athenaeum. She was formerly the Senior Technical Assistant at the Rhode Island School of Design Library.

Rhode Island Library Ass

November 3, 1997 • Ba

▶
(left) Barbara Weaver,
Director of OLIS
(center) Diane Frankel,
Executive Director of the
Institute of Museum and
Library Services, and
RILA Fall Conference
featured speaker
(right) Susan Reed,
Director of Pawtucket
Public Library, outgoing
RILA President



◀
(left) Kathy Ellen Bullard,
Director of Woonsocket
Harris Public Library,
incoming RILA President
receiving the gavel of office.
This was a part of the
Business Meeting, during
the Fall Conference.
(right) Susan Reed,
outgoing RILA President



▲ Kathy Ellen Bullard, incoming
RILA President, addressing the
conferees

All photos courtesy of and credited to Joseph McGovern of the RI Office of Library and Information Services.

Association Fall Conference

Warrington Public Library



(left) Barbara Weaver; (center) Dorothy Frechette, Deputy Director of RI OLIS, RILA Librarian of the Year; (right) Jim Frechette, Head of Technical Services, Warwick Public Library, Dorothy's husband

Dorothy Frechette, Deputy Director of the Office of Library & Information Services (OLIS), has been named Librarian of the Year by the Rhode Island Library Association (RILA). The award is given to librarians who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the development and improvement of libraries.

OLIS Director Barbara Weaver nominated Frechette, citing her 25 years working diligently at the state level to make the state agency responsive to the libraries it serves. Frechette has been a leader in several areas of importance to librarians, including funding, building renovation and expansion, and the development of the statewide automate network, known as CLAN, (Cooperating Libraries Automated Network). "A precept of the National Organization for Women has always been "Be there," Weaver said. "Dorothy Frechette is always 'there.' Without her expertise and quiet good humor, the library scene in Rhode Island would be far less rosy than it is now."



(left) Janet A. Levesque, Director of Cumberland Public Library; (center) Rev Thomas Conboy, Trustee of the Cumberland Public Library, RILA Trustee of the Year; (right) Joseph Babiec, Trustee of the Cumberland Public Library



Reverend Thomas Conboy, a trustee of the Cumberland Public Library for 16 years, has been named Trustee of the Year by the RILA. The award is given to trustees who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the development and improvement of libraries.

Cumberland Public Library's Board Chair Victoria Schulz nominated Conby, citing him as a tireless library advocate who has worked especially hard during the last three years on the library building renovation and expansion. "Rev. Conboy has given an enormous amount of work and time, as well as organizational skills to this project," said Schulz. "He continues to aid the new building committee along a path that serves the library's community in the most advantageous way."

Editor's Notebook

SEASON GREETINGS! This issue of the *Bulletin* is principally devoted to the Survey conducted over the summer and fall of this year. It reflects the interests and opinions of many of our members and non-members, and provides a valuable source of information to the new President and the Executive Committee as they prepare to lead our organization into the Twenty first century. (an overworked phrase). One of the immediate results of the survey, coupled with a decrease in paid membership renewals, will be a change in the *Bulletin*. Beginning with the next issue two changes will occur. First, the publication will become a quarterly, reaching you in Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall of 1998. Secondly, the Winter 1998 issue will be mailed only to members who have paid their 1997 and/or 1998 dues. In a time of increasing production and print costs, and decreasing budgets, we can do nothing less.

I now wish to take this opportunity to politely remind you of the importance to us all of YOU renewing your membership. Our association needs your support, your membership, and your continued interest in its goals and activities.

Thank you for your participation in the survey. The results of your participation are listed in the *Bulletin*, and will become increasingly evident in the next year.

Happy Holidays!

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