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RHODE ISLAND Library Association *Bulletin*

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Fall 1998

President's Message

KATHY ELLEN BULLARD

I HAVE BEEN READING THE HISTORY of the Rhode Island Library Association, 1903 to 1978. It was written by Leo Flanagan, primarily using the *RILA Bulletins* and other items in RILA's archives. Several things struck me as I was reading the history. I'd like to mention two of them. The first is that Mr. Flanagan mentioned the "state" of the *RILA Bulletin* throughout its history. At times he chides it for being too safe, too boring. And he praises it when it became controversial, even if it was to the point of offending most of the RILA members. Reading that made me think about this President's column. Should I be writing something more incendiary, more controversial? We do not lack for controversial topics, including computer literacy being equated with print literacy, the problems of public libraries adjusting to being just one of other types of libraries in OLIS and in LSTA funding, children's services not usually receiving the financial commitment equal to their importance, and many other issues. So I've decided to test the waters of controversy just a tiny bit.

Which bring me to the second thing which the RILA history impressed upon me: the

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The Future of Multitype Library Cooperation in Rhode Island

BY DR. CHERYL A. MCCARTHY

Revised from a Presentation at the Rhode Island Library Association Annual Conference, June 1998.

Cooperation in the State of Rhode Island

RHODE ISLAND IS AN IDEAL STATE for multitype library cooperation because of its small size, diverse but small population, and the breadth of its libraries' collections. In order to offer ALL the people of Rhode Island equitable, free and open access to information and ideas, Rhode Island needs to provide access to the combined resources of all our state's libraries as envisioned for LORI, the Library of Rhode Island. For this vision to become a reality, however, it becomes necessary to review both the history of cooperation in Rhode Island as well as the experiences of other states with multitype library cooperation.

Since the creation of the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services (DSLS) almost thirty-five years ago, DSLS has been responsible for public library development in the state, especially implementing federal funding for public library initiatives under the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). DSLS led the initiative for multitype library cooperation with the creation of Inter-related Library Systems in 1967 and the Rhode Island Library Network, RHILINET, established in 1979 as an interlibrary loan network and delivery system for multitype libraries.

In addition to RHILINET, other cooperative library initiatives in Rhode Island include:

- CLAN (Cooperating Libraries Automated Network), the consortium of public libraries, which has enhanced resource sharing efforts in the state by linking public libraries electronically in one database, funded in a large part by the generosity of the Champlin Foundations;
- HELIN (Higher Education Library Network) the consortium of RI's three state-supported institutions of higher learning and three RI private academic libraries linked electronically in one database to share resources.

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- CRIARL (Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries) which has created a Union serials list.

Other cooperatives include ARIHSL, the Association of Rhode Island Health Science Librarians and, most recently, RILINK, a cooperative pilot project funded by a LSTA grant, that will link two high school libraries' online catalogs to establish a database for resource sharing by school libraries.

Rhode Island, thus, has had a tradition of networking and resource sharing among the same types of libraries, i.e. its public libraries, its academic libraries, and its school libraries. While the multitype library network, RHILINET, has approximately 150 participating libraries, there are approximately 600 libraries in Rhode Island. The question remains to what extent will all 600 libraries link to provide multitype library cooperation in the future?

A few years ago DSLS became the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) within the Department of Administration, whose mission is to provide leadership and support for the continued development of public libraries to meet the needs of Rhode Island citizens through the combined resources of all our state's libraries. In accordance with this mission, OLIS developed its *Five-Year Plan* (1997-2002) which addresses the priorities specified in the Libraries Services and Technology Act (LSTA) guidelines for the use of available state and federal funds for libraries.

LSTA grants providing federal funds for cooperative ventures may be the impetus for RI libraries to begin planning multitype library projects. Under the requirements for funding LSTA grants, OLIS created its *Five-Year Plan* after surveying and scanning the needs of Rhode Island's libraries. OLIS' plan identifies how the state will respond to LSTA priorities for funding: electronic linkages, multitype library consortia and resource sharing, computer systems and telecommunica-

tions, and information services to diverse people with designated special needs. Furthermore, OLIS states that it will create and maintain "a library service infrastructure for the state... emphasis(ing) endeavors that effect economies of scale, avoid duplication of effort, and provide the widest range of library materials and services with available funds."

Possibilities

One can look to states where successful multitype ventures have succeeded in order to help RI plan future endeavors. For example, Massachusetts, and its six new multitype regions, Connecticut's interesting statewide systems, and Maine's online catalog, MaineCat. Many articles, reports, and web sites have been produced touting recent state initiatives or planning efforts, especially since the LSTA guidelines were adopted and federal funding was allocated. It appears, however, that the most successful models have come where there has been significant state funding for multitype library networks as in Ohio.

In an article in *Library Journal*, October 1, 1997, titled, "Ohio's OPLIN: The Future of Library Service?," Meribah Mansfield discussed the genesis of OPLIN, the Ohio Public Library Information Network. It was the initiative of public library directors in the Ohio Library Council in 1994 who had studied the success of OhioLINK. OhioLink is an online integrated catalog of over six million master records from 52 academic and research libraries including an online borrowing system, 57 research databases, online full-text articles, as well as document delivery. Moreover, Ohio's school libraries were becoming connected through the INFOhio project. Thus, OPLIN was able to build on these successes and received "unrivaled state support and a groundswell of enthusiasm for the endeavor [public libraries network] from state lawmakers, including the governor." The planning initiative from 1994-1995 was funded with a \$25,000 LSCA grant and \$50,000 from

the state. The Ohio Legislature appropriated \$12.85 million in funding for OPLIN for FY 96/97 and \$11.2 million in operating funds for 98/99. The State Library of Ohio is the fiscal agent. By 1997 after the first two years of connectivity via Ohio's broadband, high-speed, and high-capacity multi-agency telecommunications network, 700 or 83% of libraries in Ohio were connected and OPLIN received an award for being one of the top six "Public Access Services on the Internet." In addition to telecommunications connectivity and installation of a T1 line, OPLIN provides workstations for public libraries, five regional systems, online database subscriptions, administrative staffing, training for library staff, web service maintenance, and Help Desk services.

Ohio had a groundswell of grass-roots support, including strong financial support from the state legislature. Ohio is planning further cooperative projects and links between OPLIN, OhioLINK, and INFOhio. OPLIN believes that the future success of these multitype library cooperative projects and links will be to insure compatibility, efficiency, and nonduplication of effort and cost including extended cooperative purchasing of databases.

Rhode Island would do well to learn from the success of Ohio. The future for multitype library ventures in Rhode Island should be building on its existing networks: RHILINET, CLAN, HELIN, and RILINK

Problems

While Rhode Island has had a rich tradition of cooperation among similar library types, beyond RHILINET, there are no multitype collaborations for resources, collection development, and services because of proprietary issues, a lack of funding, and a lack of trust. Rhode Island libraries need to build a groundswell of grass-roots support, like Ohio, to get the collective attention of the state legislature and the governor, for funding. With \$132 million state surplus this year, what share of the surplus will go to libraries?

Rhode Island's libraries need to build a strong planning process for multitype library cooperation and secure support for its vision. A well-conceived planning document should incorporate means to eliminate barriers and solve problems for cooperative projects in the future. The barriers that may hinder multitype cooperation and network links in Rhode Island are:

- Turf protection or exclusive ownership of resources
- Organizational barriers and local and state politics.
- Preservation of the library's identity and mission
- Professional egos which are fragile and professional pride
- Loss of control or power
- Different missions for each type of library
- (Need to create one mission for multitype cooperation i.e. all libraries committed to lifelong learning)
- Different primary clientele
- Funding for start-up costs and continuing for operating budget
- Institutional biases (i.e. open access vs. restricted access)
- Infrastructure, administrative support, telecommunications and web server support.

The Future

If the Rhode Island library community can agree on a state mission for multitype cooperation, such as excellence in library service for lifelong learning of all Rhode Island citizens, then perhaps all libraries can plan ways to unite to provide equitable access to the combined resources of the state for all its citizens. If the state legislature and the governor buy into the vision of unified resources for equity of access for all Rhode Islanders, then it is possible to win more financial support for our libraries to continue these cooperative links and ventures. In an editorial in *Library Journal* on October 1, 1998, John Berry argued in support of a community mission that could apply here by creating a state mission for multitype library cooperation. He posited that a unified mission focused

on cooperation and working together to serve the community can "restore faith in public institutions, create new civic pride, and new evidence that government has the power to solve problems." This seems worth the effort to create one state mission for library cooperation.

Furthermore, Rhode Island has been provincial in its attitudes towards cooperation and should be looking even beyond the state boundaries to possible links with Massachusetts's libraries or even New England libraries. If Rhode Island libraries can create cooperative networks with multitype libraries, then they may look to join other states for negotiating power with vendors for access to online databases. Why should cooperative ventures stop at state boundaries?

Dr. Cheryl A. McCarthy is Associate Professor at the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies

From the Committees...

CONFERENCE: The Conference Committee is busy planning the Annual Conference which will be held June 3-4, 1999 at Roger Williams University in Bristol. There are exciting programs being developed on core genre fiction collections, primary source materials on the web, reader's theatre, evaluating donated books, the *Horn Book*, outreach services, career changes and many more topics. All other committees should be planning their programs for the conference. The members of the committee are: Judy Bell (JAM), Florence Doksansky, (BRO), Susan Dunn (WAR), Jenny LaPerriere (FOS/TYL), Pat LaRose (NPT), Karen McGrath (AUB) (Committee Chair), Pam Mead (SKK), and Ann Richard, (TIV). We are always looking for new ideas for conference programs and always in need of new committee members. Contact Karen at 781-6116, karenmh@lori.state.ri.us or any of the other committee members with ideas or suggestions.

FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

The legislative work of the 105th Congress closed on October 21 when President Clinton signed into law the massive omnibus spending bill (Public Law 105-277). Part of the omnibus bill included FY99 funding of LSTA, the *Library Services and Technology Act*. Meanwhile, the conference report on the omnibus spending package specifies that both the Istook amendment and the McCain amendment were dropped by the House-Senate conferees. Thus no requirement was imposed on libraries or schools to install and use blocking and filtering software as a condition of receiving federal funding or the e-rate telecommunications discounts. Lastly, included in the omnibus package was a revised version of Rep. Oxley's (R-OH) bill, the *Child Online Protection Act* (H.R. 3783), to prohibit the commercial distribution on the web to minors of material that is "harmful to minors." Within hours after it was signed into law by President Clinton, the ACLU filed a federal court constitutional challenge to the Act, dubbed by many as "CDA II."

October also saw the passage of *The Digital Millennium Copyright Act* (H.R. 2281, Public Law 105-304) and the *Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act* (S. 505, Public Law 105-298) was passed on October 7. Both bills were signed by President Clinton on October 27.

The purpose of the *Digital Millennium Copyright Act* is to update the current *Copyright Act* for the digital environment and conform U.S. law to the requirements of new World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties negotiated in Geneva in December 1996. Title IV of the new act includes provisions for digital preservation and distance learning.

The purpose of the *Copyright Term Extension Act* (S. 505) is to extend by 20 years the length of protection afforded to works created by both individuals and corporate copyright holders. The bill includes a limited exception for libraries, archives, and nonprofit educational institutions to treat a copyrighted

work in its last (new) 20 years of protection as if it were in the public domain for noncommercial purposes if certain conditions are met.

Finally, The 105th Congress failed to enact the *Government Publications Reform Act* (S. 2288), a bill supported by the library community to improve the production, procurement, and dissemination of government publications. Two key provisions of the bill were (1) to reign in fugitive documents that escape the Federal Depository Library Program and (2) to establish a system to provide permanent public access to electronic government information.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: The Intellectual Freedom Committee returned to its monthly meetings in September. The Committee received four requests from local libraries for material from the Banned Books Week kit. And the Committee received a copy of the *Intellectual Freedom Handbook* from the New Hampshire Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee, as well as a copy of the Association's "Statement on Internet Filtering." A copy of the RILA "Statement on the Use of Filtering Software in Libraries" has been sent as requested to the New Hampshire Library Association IFC, the Missouri State Library, and the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom, which is collecting chapter resolutions on filtering.

On October 22, 1998, a coalition of civil liberties groups and other organizations filed a court challenge to the *Child Online Protection Act* which was recently signed into law by President Clinton. The law would make commercial web sites require proof of age before allowing viewing of material considered "harmful to minors." A constitutional analysis of the Act can be found at the Center for Democracy and Technology site: <www.cdt.org/speech/constitutional.html>.

A new edition of the *RILA IFC Handbook* has been completed and will be available for distribution in the near future.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

COMMITTEE: The 1999 legislative agenda has been evolving over the last three months and is likely to include three major initiatives.

- I. Full funding of RIGL 29-6-2 (state funding of local libraries at 25%).
- II. Support for statewide licensing of online databases.
- III. Increasing the cap on the construction reimbursement program by \$500,000 a year.

Lobbying efforts began in November with letters of congratulations going out to all newly elected representatives and senators.

MEMBERSHIP: The membership committee of the Rhode Island Library Association is gearing up for the 1999 season. Once again RILA membership, with the benefits of wonderful programming, discounts and the *RILA Bulletin*, is being offered to all library supporters. Renewal notices will be sent out in December.

If you are interested in becoming a member of RILA or know of anyone who might be interested in membership, please contact a member of the committee. The committee is also seeking an energetic advertising manager for the *RILA Directory*. Please contact Denise or Karen or join us at the next membership meeting!! We look forward to a successful 1999.

DATES

January 29-February 3:
ALA Midwinter Conference,
Philadelphia

March 25-27:
PLA Spring Symposium,
Chicago

Warwick PL Cuts the Ribbon

THE DOORS TO THE NEWLY EXPANDED and renovated Warwick PL were officially opened at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 21st. The \$6.2 million project has transformed the library into a spacious and inviting facility with numerous eye-catching features. The expansion, designed by Keyes Associates, added 28,000 square feet to the building which now has a total of 63,000 square feet of space. Among the new features are a bright, spacious children's room on the second floor, a nicely-appointed quiet study room, a media center, numerous computer workstations, two public meeting rooms, and a drive-up book drop. There's also a diaper-changing station in the men's room and, for those looking for some of the amenities found in some of RI's larger bookstores, Felicia's coffee bar is located just past the entrance to the library, which is located at the rear of the building.



PHOTO: JOSEPH MCGOVERN

Director Doug Pearce, Assistant Director Carol Drought and members of the Board of Trustees welcome visitors at the entrance to the newly and expanded Warwick Public Library

BULLETIN BOARD

The two local library bond issues that were voted on this past Election Day were approved. In Exeter, voters approved \$500,000 for construction on a new library and in Newport, voters approved \$3 million for an addition and repairs to the Newport Public Library.

As a result of funding from the Champlin Foundations and an OLIS LSTA Resources Sharing Grant, the CRIARL (Consortium of RI Academic and Research Libraries) *Union List of Serials* is now available on the WWW. Added to the list are the holdings of the Association of Rhode Island Health Science Libraries (ARIHSL), which resulted in the addition of almost 700 new/unique medically-related bibliographic records and more than 3,000 new holdings locations. The CRIARL Union List is located on the Web at: library.brown.edu:81.

Preview RILINK, an internet based resource sharing union catalog for Rhode Island schools, a pilot project funded by an LSTA grant through the Office of Library Information Services. Explore the union catalog (South Kingstown High School and Middletown High School) at www.libraryview.com/RILINK. Up to eight additional schools will be joining RILINK if a second LSTA grant is approved. If you would like to find out more about RILINK, have your questions answered, get a fact sheet or an application, go to www.athena.state.ri.us/rilink.

The New England Library Association is promoting a travel package for the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans next June. Rooms are available for the Hotel St. Marie in the French Quarter at \$89 for a single and \$109 for a double. Call 1-800-366-2743 for more information or to reserve a room.

The RISD Library and the Providence Athenaeum now have a joint online catalog. An updating of the web site www.risd.edu/library/libraryalias.htm with links to many art resources is planned for the near future.

Four branches of the Providence Public Library have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. They are the Rochambeau Branch Library, the Smith Hill Branch Library, the South Providence Branch Library, and the Wanskuck Branch Library.

This year's Rhode Island Children's Book Award winner was *Frindle* by Andrew Clements.

The award program, in existence since 1990, is a joint project of the RI Chapter of the International Reading Association, RILA, RIEMA and is coordinated by the Office of Library and Information Services. Titles nominated must be appropriate for grades 3-6.

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Major Grant Awards Announced

CLAN: The Cooperating Libraries Automated Network recently announced the receipt of two grants from the Champlin Foundations. The first is an award of \$544,000 to upgrade network technology and includes money for new routers at all locations, upgraded processors, the purchase of hardware and software for network monitoring and troubleshooting, and an upgraded firewall. The second is an award of \$25,380 for the conversion of approximately 30,000 non-MARC records to the MARC format.

RISD: The RI School of Design, in partnership with the Providence Public Library, recently received two grants toward the funding of "Art in Context," a new 4-year program designed to bring arts programming into communities throughout Rhode Island. The program will provide for artists' residencies in PPL's branch libraries, an exhibition at RISD, and a traveling Art and Text mobile. Each artist will create a new work of art which will be displayed at the RISD Museum upon completion. Artists chosen for this year include Barnaby Evans of "Waterfire" fame. The overall cost of the project has been tabbed at \$1 million. Toward this sum, the Pew Charitable Trusts has awarded RISD \$500,000 and the Institute of Museum and Library Services has awarded the school a National Leadership Grant of \$325,513.

Tyler Free Library



PHOTO: JOSEPH MCGOVERN

PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFILES

The Tyler Free Library

BY JENNY LAPERRIERE

This is the first in a series on some of the Ocean State's smaller public libraries.

The Tyler Free Library owes its start to Casey B. Tyler, whose career spanned teaching, storekeeping and banking. All during his life he avidly collected books and had supported establishing a library in Moosup Valley incorporating many of his volumes. Not only was he doing this out of good will, but to meet a financial commitment to some old acquaintances in the valley. In lieu of money they were willing to accept his books for the establishment of a public library. In January 1896 the Tyler Free Library Association was organized and a librarian was hired. And, upon Tyler's death in 1899, land was donated by his niece for a library to be built to house his collection. On March 31, 1900, Tyler's 2000 volumes were moved into the library standing next door to the Moosup Valley Church. It was also reported on that day that 15 cards were issued. Today many of the original volumes remain in the library.

In 1901, with an established library and collection, the library was able to request 98 volumes to be purchased with state appropriations. The state's stamp read on the document "Approved with limit of fiction to one third of appropriations". Modern library directors can look upon the Librarian's report of 1901 to "Office State Board of Education" with envy since only seven pieces of information needed to be reported on. Duly noted was ninety-nine "different persons drawing books during the year" and 1548 items circulated.

In 1965 the library was moved across the street and attached to a one-room schoolhouse to make a much larger library. It is this library that exists today on Moosup Valley Road. Since the Tyler Free Library opened its

doors in 1900 there have only been nine librarians, including myself. The third Librarian, Jesse H. Bennis, served for over 58 years and her successor, Sally Henderson, served for more than 15. That's dedication!

During the years, the residents of Foster have come to expect from their little library in the valley good books and friendly service. With the addition of CLAN membership in 1995, Tyler has had an explosion in its delivery service and one-third of its circulation is from CLAN member libraries. Happily, though, we are proud to loan out as much as we borrow.

Tyler also can boast a long-time commitment to programming for adults and children. Every year the library hosts story times, crafts and instructional classes, entertainment and enlightenment. If you are ever out for an afternoon drive, stop by our library. We're the only one-room white schoolhouse on Moosup Valley Road.

RILA Board Endorses...

continued from back page

- We protect the rights of individuals to express their opinions about library resources and services;
- We celebrate and preserve our democratic society by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions and ideas, so that all individuals have the opportunity to become lifelong learners - informed, literate, educated, and culturally enriched.

Change is constant; but these principles transcend change and endure in a dynamic technological, social and political environment.

By embracing these principles, libraries in the United States can contribute to a future that values and protects freedom of speech, in a world that celebrates both our similarities and our differences, respects individuals and their beliefs, and holds all persons truly equal and free.

PEOPLE

EMILIE BENOIT has been appointed part-time Reference Librarian at the Roger Williams University School of Law.

ROWENA BURKE is now Children's Librarian at Newport Public Library.

NANCY CHRISTY is now Branch Librarian at the Wanskuck Branch of the Providence PL.

DOREY CONWAY has been promoted at Providence PL to Head of Electronic Information Services, a newly created department at the library

MATTHEW DALBORA recently was appointed LAN Specialist at Providence PL.

MURRAY EDWARDS recently was named Young Adult Librarian at Newport PL.

GAVIN FERRIBY, former CRIARL Union List Editor, is now Technical Services Librarian at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

TIMOTHY HEIGH has been appointed Assistant Director of the West Warwick PL. He comes to the library from Virginia where he has spent four years as Senior Librarian and two years as Supervising Librarian at the Newport News PL.

DANIEL HINMAN recently was named part-time Special Collections Cataloger at Providence PL.

DAVID KAPLAN recently was appointed Head of Reference at CCRI's Knight Campus Library.

ARTEMIS KIRK is the new Director of Libraries at the University of RI.

KATHRYN KULPA recently was appointed Reference/Young Adult Librarian at East Providence PL.

HEIDE-LORE CAIGER is now a part-time Reference Librarian at East Providence PL.

CHERYL MARAJ is the new part-time Young Adult Librarian at the Barrington PL.

GINNY MCKEE, former Youth Services Coordinator at PPL, recently accepted the position of Youth Services Coordinator at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, a large metropolitan library with a strong history in service to children.

STEPAN OLIVER is the "Art in Context" Coordinator at Providence PL. "Art in Context," is the RISD, in partnership with PPL, grant-funded project designed to bring arts programming into RI communities.

DAVID PERKINSON is now Circulation Coordinator at Johnson and Wales University.

ROBERTA STEVENS is now Librarian at Portsmouth Abbey.

CLAN, the Cooperating Libraries Automated Network, announced three appointments in September: RICK PAYETTE was appointed Technical Support Specialist, HSIANGHUI LUI-SPENCER was appointed Cataloger, and JEAN BONNIOL was appointed Administrative Assistant.

At the University of Rhode Island, Reference Librarians MARY McDONALD and ANDREE RATHERMACHER have had their proposal for a one-credit information literacy course accepted. They will be teaching two sections of LIB 140: "Special Topics in Information Literacy," with a focus on business in the Spring of 1999.

IN MEMORIAM

EARLEEN GAMACHE, former Director of the Lincoln Public Library, passed away on October 17th.

SYLVIA MERCIER, Head of Reference at the Knight Campus of the Community College of RI, passed away on August 13th.

JEANNE RICHARDSON, former RI Collection Librarian at the Providence Public Library, passed away on August 9th.

President's Message

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continuing "problem" of school libraries. From the "RILA History," p. 13 "The single event which more than any other led to modern library service in RI was triggered when Dr. Elmer Smith... of Brown University...observed the deplorable condition of local school libraries."

A conference was convened and it "concluded that low standards and severe underfunding were major problems." From that eventually came a landmark study titled *Library Cooperation*, by John Humphry, thus the more usual moniker of the Humphry report.

On the basis of that report, state standards for school libraries were established in 1964. Of course there are today some outstanding school libraries. But I also know of some school libraries with woefully underfunded collections and resources, some even without telephones. I have heard tales of school librarians literally without libraries.

So where is the outcry now, where are today's Humphrys and Smiths? Why aren't RILA, RIEMA, GSLIS, and the education department of URI or Brown studying and surveying today's school libraries for the purpose of eventually proposing comprehensive new standards appropriate for the next millennium?

I know work has been done in the recent past toward this, and it has proved a frustrating exercise in futility. If a public report were issued by someone with the credibility of a Humphry or a Smith, might not it be heeded? We simply can't know until it happens.

Ouch! I hurt myself falling off my soapbox.

I end with "Best wishes for a happy holiday season to all."

RILA Board Endorses New Intellectual Freedom Statement

ON OCTOBER 7TH, THE RILA EXECUTIVE BOARD unanimously voted to endorse the final draft of "Libraries An American Value," a new intellectual freedom statement intended to be a companion piece to the *Library Bill of Rights* and the *Freedom to Read Statement*. The new statement was developed over the course of this year by a special committee appointed by ALA President Ann Symons and will come up for formal adoption by ALA Council at the Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. The statement was prepared for the citizens of this country to convey to them what they can expect of their libraries.

Libraries: An American Value

Libraries in America are cornerstones of the communities they serve. Free access to the books, ideas, resources, and information in America's libraries is imperative for education, employment, enjoyment, and self-government.

Libraries are a legacy to each generation, offering the heritage of the past and the promise of the future. To ensure that libraries flourish and have the freedom to promote and protect the public good in the 21st century, we believe certain principles must be guaranteed.

To that end, we affirm this contract with the people we serve:

- We defend the constitutional rights of all individuals, including children and teenagers, to use the library's resources and services;
- We value our nation's diversity and strive to reflect that diversity by providing a full spectrum of resources and services to the communities we serve;
- We affirm the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library and its resources and services;
- We connect people and ideas by helping each person select and effectively use the library's resources;
- We protect each individual's privacy and confidentiality in the use of library resources and services;

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