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Rhode Island Library Association

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Spring 1999

## Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 72, no. 4-6

RILA

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# RHODE ISLAND Library Association *Bulletin*

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Spring 1999

## **President's Message**

KATHY ELLEN BULLARD

**W**hew, I made it, my last President's column! You have to admire professional writers. I enjoy writing, but those quarterly deadlines always came so quickly!

But it's time now for me to move on. In fact, leaving the RILA Presidency is just one of the changes happening in my life in June. I'm also changing jobs. Changes can be scary, no doubt about it. But I believe that change isn't something that happens to your life, it *is* life! Of course, our own actions can effect the quantity of change, and our attitude can effect the quality through our perceptions of change (e.g. good change, bad change, "ho hum" change). But nothing can halt it altogether. And isn't that great? Even I, an oftentimes worrier, understand that the promise of, and ability to, change are part of what defines our humanity. (OK, end of Philosophy 101).

On the subject of change, I encourage you to read about the Blue Ribbon Committee in this issue, and to participate on a task force this summer. I am looking forward to exhilarating discussions and thoughtful recommendations leading us into the next century of library service.

*continued on page 7*

## **AN UNUSUAL COLLABORATION: THE LIBRARIES OF THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN AND THE PROVIDENCE ATHENAEUM**

BY CAROL S. TERRY AND GARY MASON

**E**very once in a while there gives one pause to believe there is a library god, or, in a more realistic turn of mind, at least the possibility that a plan can come together. One or the other has happened at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Library and the Providence Athenaeum.

On October 1, 1996 the Athenaeum hired a new librarian/administrator with the directive to automate the card catalog. It was also at this time that the RISD library director began planning for a more advanced software system. Both felt that the Champlin Foundations were a likely funding participant in assisting their institutions bring catalogs (and administrative accoutrements) up to contemporary standards. Both felt an imperative to make their respective libraries' holdings available to a wider community. There was a desire, individually, to position each library to be part of LORI and to give all citizens the opportunity to view each catalog as part of the holdings of all the libraries in Rhode Island.

Each library began formulating an individual plan, and each library independently selected Innovative Interfaces, Inc. (III) as the software of choice. Each library received a separate price quote from III in the fall of 1997. It was at this point that forces beyond

our consciousness. The RISD Library has an advisory committee that meets periodically to advise and be a sounding board to the library director. Among the membership of that committee is the librarian at the Athenaeum.

Meeting through this committee both librarians became aware of each other's plans and also that their philosophies of library service were quite compatible even though their libraries were quite different. Both realized that each had a collection that did not, in the main, overlap with the other. In fact, the libraries were complementary to one another. The RISD Library specializes in the arts and the Athenaeum focus is on the humanities and natural history.

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In the winter of 1997 and the spring of 1998, the two libraries formalized their new relationship and negotiated a joint contract with III that saved each library substantial amounts of money over each having a separate system - in excess \$150,000. There is also a long-term saving in the sharing of the monthly maintenance fees to III.

The summer of 1998 was a time of intense training for cataloging, circulation, acquisitions and the online catalog. The RISD Library was up and running at the speed limit in the fall of 1998. The Athenaeum, having just entered the 20th century was a bit slower. But it too put its catalog on the Worldwide Web with the circulation system to be operable in the summer of 1999. These catalogs can be reached at <[www.library.risd.edu](http://www.library.risd.edu)> or <[www.providenceathenaeum.org](http://www.providenceathenaeum.org)>.

An important factor in the success of this project has been the staff at each library. To simplify this RISD-ATHENAEUM relationship, a technical services employee at RISD who had received her MLS joined the Athenaeum staff as the head of technical services. The staff at each library is compatible with the other, both professionally and socially.

In a bit of inspiration, the RISD Library chose the new iMac machines for OPAC use. The Athenaeum jumped on the boat and purchased two for their children's library.

Our next task is to work through and simplify those organizational bureaucratic barriers to service that crop up inevitably in this type of collaboration. Both librarians feel confident that good fortune will continue and it will be measured by increased use of the collections and resource sharing.

Carol S. Terry  
Director of Library Services  
Rhode Island School of Design

Gary Mason  
Librarian/Administrator  
Providence Athenaeum

## 1999-2000 RILA Executive Board

New officers were elected at the RILA Annual Conference on June 3rd and the Executive Board now consists of the following members:

**President:** Helena Rodrigues, Dean of University Libraries, Johnson & Wales University  
**Vice-President/President-Elect:** David Macksam, Director, Cranston PL  
**Treasurer:** Mary Moroney, Director, Bryant College Library  
**Secretary:** Derryl "De" Johnson, Director, Mohr Memorial PL, Johnston  
**Member-At-Large:** Mary Masse Harty, Head of Children's Services, Barrington PL  
**Member-At-Large:** Cindy Lunghoffer, Adult Services Librarian, East Providence PL  
**NELA Councilor:** Ann Richard, Director, Tiverton Library Services  
**ALA Councilor:** Frank Iacono, Reference Librarian, OLIS

### Blue Ribbon Committee Formed in Response to Library Study

Under the auspices of the Rhode Island Library Association, a Blue Ribbon Committee has been formed to respond to, prioritize, and recommend implementation strategies for future statewide library development, based on the *New Possibilities: Rhode Island Libraries for the Millennium* report otherwise known as the *Rhode Island Library Study*. The Study, funded with \$30,000 LSTA grant by the Office of Library and Information Services to the Coalition of Library Advocates, is meant to be a near-future plan for library and information services in Rhode Island, based upon the needs and perspectives of library users and input from the library community. Leslie Burger of Library Development Solutions conducted the study, the final version of which was completed in April.

Seventeen library organizations have been asked to designate a representative to join this special committee. To facilitate the work of the BRC, four task forces will be created paralleling the major recommendation categories of the *New Possibilities* report (Infrastructure, Funding, New Initiatives, Governance/Policy). Each task force will review, evaluate and priori-

tize specific recommendations and report back to the BRC. A member of the BRC will chair each task force with task force participation open to all interested individuals. Task forces will work through the summer with final recommendations to be formulated by the BRC and presented to the Library Board of Rhode Island by November 1, 1999. The seventeen organizations invited to participate are: RILA, Library Board of Rhode Island, HELIN, CRIARL, CLAN, RIEMA, Medium/Large Libraries discussion group, Small Libraries discussion group, OLIS, COLA, RI Chapter of SLA, ARIHSL, State Law Library, Statewide Reference Resource Center, RI Office of Higher Education, RI Dept. of Education, and the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Services. The initial BRC meeting was scheduled for May 27.

### DATES

September 25 – October 2  
Banned Books Week

October 17-23  
Teen Read Week

## **RILA Award Winners 1999**

The following Association awards were presented at the Annual Conference Business Meeting on June 3rd at the Johnson and Wales Library:

**Trustee of Year:** George Sarantos, Newport Public Library, for his outstanding contributions to the Library in the areas of fundraising and planning.

**Librarian of the Year:** Peter Bennett, Assistant Director for Support Services/Network Administrator for CLAN, Providence Public Library, for his continuing service in overseeing the growth and development of CLAN.

**Special Recognition - Librarian:** Anne Toll, retiring Director of the Newport Public Library, for a distinguished career of service both to the Library and within the RI library community.

**Special Recognition - Trustee:** Janice Rousselle, West Warwick Public Library, for her twenty-eight (and continuing) years of exemplary service to the Library.

RILA's Legislative Action Committee also presented a special award to Joseph McGovern of the Office of Library and Information Services, in recognition of his extraordinary effort in producing an advocacy video in support of increased state funding.

## **From the Committees...**

**Federal Relations Committee:** Members of the FRC joined other library advocates from Rhode Island and around the nation on May 4, 1999, to participate in the American Library Association's 25th National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC. Rhode Island's library delegation consisted of: RILA President Kathy Ellen Bullard, Woonsocket Harris Public Library; Barbara Weaver, RI Office of Library and Information Services; Joan Ress Reaves, Chair of

the Library Board of RI; Rose Ellen Reynolds, White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce; Ednor Larson, Elizabeth Baldwin Elementary School; and Daniel O'Mahony, Brown University Library. The group met with each of RI's four Members of Congress and/or their staff to discuss the impact of federal actions on RI's libraries and library services.

**Intellectual Freedom Committee:** The fourth edition of RILA's Intellectual Freedom Handbook has been published and copies were sent to all public libraries, branches, and academic libraries. Extra copies are available for a cost of \$5. Please contact Carla Weiss, chair of the IFC (cweiss@ric.edu), if you did not receive a copy or would like extra copies.

## **Celebration in North Kingstown**

On March 21st a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the North Kingstown Free Library, in celebration of the completion of the library's extensive addition and renovation project. The library, nestled in the heart of Wickford, has been called a "work of art" by many and is a must-see for librarians who happen to be in the area.

Highlights of the addition/renovation:

The children's area has doubled in size and features a new 2,000 sq. ft. addition with study tables, new book stacks and four window seats that overlook Academy Cove; a new enclosed preschool area with child sized chairs and tables, parent and child reading chairs and "reading boat"; 13 new computers with children's reference CD-ROMs, word processing and access to CLAN (the statewide public library database) and to the Internet.

A new 2,000 sq. ft. South County Special Collections addition has been created that adds a smaller public meeting room, a new South County Room and a large storage space to the building. All three of these rooms store

the library's local history, local writers and genealogy collections plus the rare and valuable books, maps, photographs, art works that the library has collected over the years. This whole area has a special heating/cooling and humidity climate control unit that keeps all this material in an ideal environment for preservation.

A new 41 station Windows NT LAN has been installed with new data wiring, new computers and new computer workstations are in place throughout the building.

The public service desks have been redesigned, a new stairway has been built that provides another great view of the Cove, the lighting and carpeting has been replaced throughout the building and new furniture is in place in all areas of the library. There is a new Quiet Study Room and much more shelf space throughout the building.

## **BULLETIN BOARD**

The "First Annual Library to Library 10K Road Race," sponsored by the Foster Public Library, will be held on Sunday, August 29 starting at 10 AM. A 10K walk will take place at 9:30 and a one-mile fun run for kids will take place at 11:30. For more information call 274-2652 or e-mail rsmith@rils.org.

The American Library Association is joining with the United States General Services Administration (GSA) to announce a new federal Web site for local communities to use in educating the public about Y2K and its possible impact. The "Community Guide to Y2K" Web site can be found at <[www.itpolicy.gsa.gov/mks/yr2000/community/community.htm](http://www.itpolicy.gsa.gov/mks/yr2000/community/community.htm)>. Designed around the basic needs of daily life, the site provides information on the current status of Y2K preparations as well as guidance for individuals and communities in how to prepare for possible problems related to Y2K.

*Libraries, Children, and the Internet*, an ALA question-and-answer page, can be found online at

<[www.ala.org/parents/librariesandinternet.html](http://www.ala.org/parents/librariesandinternet.html)> under the "ALA Resources for Parents, Teens, and Kids" page at <[www.ala.org/parents/index.html](http://www.ala.org/parents/index.html)>.

"PLA 2000," the Public Library Association's Eight National Conference will take place in Charlotte, North Carolina March 28 - April 1, 2000.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFILES

### *Davisville Free Library*

BY PATRICIA DIBELLA

The quiet, dirt road and white, picket fence are gone. The road-way is now a busy link between Route 4 and the Quonset Point/Davisville area. The fence was destroyed in the Hurricane of 1938 and the narrow road widened to accommodate the heavier traffic. But just walk through the front double doors of the Davisville Free Library and you feel yourself transported into a quieter age. The recent renovations have not altered the basic ambiance of this quaint, one-room library with working fireplace.

In January 1916 the Davisville Library and Reading Room was organized through the efforts of Isabelle Gillespie, a schoolteacher from the area. Donated books, magazines and games were housed in the Pine Grove Hall in Davisville. The library's first purchase is recorded as two farm manuals for \$2.18. By 1919 the library had grown to 1107 volumes. On March 23, 1918 the library was incorporated as the Davisville Free Library "for the purpose of promoting the moral, intellectual and social improvement of the inhabitants of Davisville and vicinity."

In December of 1924 the new library building was opened. A 100' by 150' plot of land was given by Mr. William O. Dyer. The building funds were given in memory of James M. Davis by members of the Davis family and the from Davisville Improvement Association. The Providence firm of Jackson, Robertson and Adams designed the building. The original blueprints are still in the possession of the library.

In the 83-year history there have been only seven librarians, most notably Mrs. Charles (Lottie B.) Straight from 1919 to 1950 and Mrs. John (Marion) Barber from 1950 until January of 1997.

The Davisville area and the library both thrived through the years; first, with the local mills and later with the U.S. Navy's use of Quonset Point. When the Navy departed in 1974, the area's economic base dissipated. Slowly the library's patronage dwindled and the building fell into disrepair. On January 1, 1997, the Davisville Free Library Association decided to close the doors not knowing at the time if this would be a permanent situation. The members of the Association sincerely hoped that it would be only temporary.

After determining that a "quick fix" could not solve the problems facing the library, the Library Association found other people interested in maintaining this part of the Davisville heritage. Slowly momentum grew, as did the coffers with renovation funds made possible by

Champlin Foundation, and support from the local Slocum Grange and the Pettaquamscut Chapter of the DAR. The building retains the quaintness of the 1920's library without being old and run-down anymore. The roof is repaired and windows replaced. The electrical wiring and furnace have been replaced. The cracks in the walls and ceiling have been replastered. Everything is freshly painted and the wood floors have been refinished. Old, out-of-date and damaged books have been weeded out of the collection and new books are on the shelves alongside the family favorites. The library provides the intimate feeling we remember from our childhood neighborhood libraries but is moving to keep up with the rush of technology with plans for Internet access and future CLAN membership.

North Kingstown boasts three libraries; the large and newly renovated North Kingstown Free Library and the two small, independent free libraries, The Willett Free Library and The Davisville Free Library. The Willett Free Library is located in the southern section of town and Davisville is in the northern portion, with the North Kingstown Free Library being more centrally located in Wickford. Though small, the two independent libraries have found their niche in providing their surrounding communities with easy access and close proximity to the neighborhoods.

At Davisville the computers are neatly tucked away in the two side alcoves originally designed for display. It's a fine mix of the old and the new working together to provide a quiet corner of learning and recreational reading.

*Pat DiBella is Librarian at the Davisville Free Library*

*The Davisville Free Library*



## **Cooperative Collection Development and the Barrington Public Library Federal Depository**

BY JOHN FOBERT

Rising costs of materials and the slow growth of budgets has made cooperative collection development an attractive alternative for many libraries. Libraries are purchasing products as part of consortiums to save money and get the most out of their limited funds. However there is a group of four libraries in Rhode Island which have been enhancing their collections through their cooperative efforts for over ten years. They are the members of the Barrington Public Library Federal Depository.

The Barrington Public Library was designated as a Federal depository on January 7, 1987. Recognizing the need for a depository to serve the needs of residents of the East Bay, Barrington Public joined by Newport Public Library, Roger Williams University and Salve Regina University, decided to try to meet that need. The libraries realized early on that being a depository would require a great amount of resources which could be overwhelming for one library to shoulder alone. By working together they obtained depository status and worked out how the depository would function in meeting the needs of the community while staying within the guidelines set forth by the Federal Depository Library Program.

Barrington Public Library and the three selective housing sites serve a combined population of 50,450. Together the libraries collect about 15% of the documents produced by the U.S. Government Printing Office. The selection process must be a careful one so each member institution has designated a Government Documents Librarian. Working together, Ron Reeves (Barrington), Pat LaRose (Newport), John Fobert (RWU), and John Lewis (SRU), gather periodically to discuss what items should be

selected for the depository and where they should be held. Aided by a collection development policy in addition to their own institution's goals, the librarians determine the most suitable housing for publications while keeping in mind each library's collection concentration. For instance, Salve Regina collects very intensely in education related documents such as the ERIC collection while Roger Williams University has a very strong collection of National Park Service materials to support its architecture program.

However there are many items that more than one library may want and that is when the true sense of cooperation and compromise is apparent. A good example of this happened recently when there was a need for the National Trade Data Bank at both Salve Regina and Roger Williams Universities. Since Salve had selected this item previously, an alternative product was identified, namely Stat-USA, which includes the information found in the NTDB. Roger Williams selected Stat-USA after consulting with the other libraries. This arrangement works out well for the entire depository as both the NTDB and Stat-USA are available for the use of all the different communities served by the depository. Newport Public can send their users to Salve to use NTDB while Barrington's patrons can access the same information at RWU.

The coordination of all this work was recognized to be very difficult for Barrington Public to support alone and a proposal was made for a position of Depository Clerk. The salary of this position is shared by the member institutions based on the percentage of the documents selected. For instance, since RWU selects 44% of all the documents in the depository, that is the percentage of the cost for the clerk for which they are responsible. The position is currently held by Kathy Beaird.

The librarians of the Depository continue to look at ways to improve the access to Federal documents and recently participated in the CRIARL

Government Documents Committee's initiative to produce a union list of all the government documents held by the depositories in RI. Part of this initiative involved increasing the holdings of items available from the GPO within the state and thus reduce dependence on the Regional Depository in Connecticut.

The Barrington Federal Depository was recently recognized by the Federal Depository as a "unique" arrangement and was utilized in the training of one of its new inspectors along with Brown University and the Westerly Public Library. There were many favorable comments from that inspection report which stated that the Barrington member libraries are "an exemplary model of cooperation to provide government information to the public".

The members of the Barrington Federal Depository invite the public to utilize their collections. Among the four institutions, patrons will find information from the Census Bureau, National Climatic Data Center, FBI, National Center for Education Statistics, OSHA, EPA and the Department of the Army to name just a few. Cooperative collection development has brought the four institutions many benefits and is a good example of how the concept can be put into action.

*John Fobert is Serials/Document Delivery Librarian at Roger Williams University*

### **RILA IFC Handbook Available**

The fourth edition of RILA's *Intellectual Freedom Handbook* is now available.

The 58-page handbook was compiled and written by RILA's Intellectual Freedom Committee.

To order send a check for \$5 payable to RILA to:

Carla Weiss  
Adams Library  
Rhode Island College  
600 Mt. Pleasant Ave.  
Providence, Rhode Island, 02908

## PEOPLE

**Robert Balliot** is the new Director of the Middletown Public Library.

**Kathy Ellen Bullard** has been appointed Assistant Director for Neighborhood and Family Services at the Providence Public Library. She is the former Director of the Woonsocket-Harris Public Library.

**Peggy Chace** has been appointed YA Librarian at Barrington PL.

**Brenda D'Aguanno** is the new Children's/YA Librarian at North Scituate PL.

**Ann Kirby** has been elected Chair of the URI GSLIS Advisory Committee and **MaryKay Schnare** has been elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect for the 1999-2000 term.

Assistant Professor **Yan Ma** has been granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the URI GSLIS effective July 1st.

Associate Professor **Cheryl McCarthy** received the Alumna of the Year Award at the Annual Gathering sponsored by the URI GSLIS on April 16th.

**Joel Marks** is the new YA Librarian at Greenville PL.

**Carolyn Tarpey** is the Children's/YA Librarian at the Mohr Library in Johnston.

**David Thornly** has been appointed LAN Specialist at the Providence Public Library.

**Anne Toll** is retiring as Director of the Newport Public Library at the end of July. She became Director in 1983.

**Linda Wood** has retired as Librarian at South Kingstown High School after 23 years of service.

The Rhode Island Historical Society Library has appointed a management team whose members are: **Allison Cywin, Laura Dixon, Meredith Sorozan, and Rick Stattler**. They will serve as Library Director and Associate Directors respectively, with the directorship rotating on a two-year basis.

## Congress on Professional Education Held in DC

More than 100 delegates from national and international associations of library and information studies educators and professionals convened in Washington, DC for a two day Congress on Professional Education, April 30-May 01, 1999 sponsored by the American Library Association. The Congress aimed to reach consensus among stakeholder-groups on the values and core competencies of the profession and on strategies for action to address common issues and concerns. The impetus for the Congress arose from changes in name of some programs of graduate education, the seeming lack of attention to core competencies, and the national shortage of professionals to work with young people and diverse and under-served populations.

The Congress began with an overview of current issues. Theodore Marchese, Vice President for the American Association for Higher Education, assessed the state of higher education—"these are the good times"—and compared library and information studies with programs in nursing, education, and social work. He noted that other professions are moving to more student- and problem-centered education based on evidence and clear outcomes. Barbara Moran, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, reviewed the previous twenty years of Library and Information Studies in the academy and the changes implemented to ensure that programs not only survived but thrived. Marilyn Mason, Cleveland Public Library, articulated professional issues, including recruitment, diversity, compensation, continuing education, specific shortages in youth services and marketing a more accurate image of the profession. In this context, delegates worked to clarify guiding principles and values, core competencies and barriers to improved education.

Susan Martin, Georgetown University, later addressed the structure and process of accreditation comparing ALA accreditation with education (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education), engineering (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology), and social work (Council on Social Work Education). Marion Reid, California State University, San Marcos, provided her viewpoint of the ALA accreditation process from the perspective of a site visitor. Janet Swan Hill, University of Colorado, Boulder, commented on the perceived weaknesses of the accreditation system.

A panel of Marcia Bates (UCLA), Toni Carbo (University of Pittsburgh), Mary K. Chelton (Queen's University), and Brian Schottlaender (UCLA) illuminated a range of issues arising from concerns about the current curriculum of programs. Bates suggested that our traditional focus on text was inappropriate for a culture that is increasingly multimedia-oriented, and urged that we consider the term "information" to be a broad rubric encompassing all formats for recording and transmitting knowledge. Carbo stressed that most LIS programs, even those in schools lacking "library" in their names, provide a solid grounding in traditional topics such as cataloging (perhaps called "organization of information"), recognize the need to prepare librarians to serve specific user populations like children and make extensive efforts to meet those needs. Chelton noted that, as sixty percent of public library users are children or young adults, every librarian working in a public library should be prepared to respond appropriately to the needs of that population such that "audience" for courses does matter. She stressed that a "kid friendly" orientation needed to be woven throughout the curriculum in addition to specific courses. Schottlaender reinforced the distinction between education and training and stressed that graduates need to understand management and change,

communicate effectively and take practical risks: the tools of the trade are only a means to an end.

Additionally, panelists from a variety of libraries addressed the top professional concerns that had surfaced during consensus-building exercises. This reaction panel generated lines of delegates at two microphones with their comments and questions. The panelists were Carolyn Caywood (Virginia Beach Public Library), Rick Forsman (University of Colorado), Sheila Intner (Simmons College), Brenda Johnson (District of Columbia Public Library), Joel Shoemaker (Southeast Junior High School, Iowa) and Barbara Spiegelman (Westinghouse).

The full text of presentations and commentary will be available on the Congress website <[www.ala.org/congress/](http://www.ala.org/congress/)>. There is ongoing activity on the <[edcongress](mailto:edcongress)> discussion list. Recommendations will be developed based on the deliberations of delegates. These recommendations will propose strategies to address:

- core values and explicit competencies for the profession,
- recruitment, including marketing librarianship as the 21st century profession,
- salaries and working conditions,
- accreditation, including a process for the ongoing revision of standards, their rigorous application and resulting consumer information,
- mainstreaming within ALA the ALA/NCATE process for school librarians who choose that route,
- access to programs and specializations,
- areas of critical shortages,
- alternate methods for teaching and learning,
- education and training for different categories of personnel, foreign credentialing,
- clarification of the roles of educators and employers,
- continuing education,
- mentoring,

- a clear and funded research agenda for the profession with appropriate
- dissemination of results, and
- diversity, broadly defined, across all of these areas of concern.

A structure for continuing dialogue will also be recommended.

The Congress was organized by an eighteen member steering committee representative of the major associations and groups within the library and information profession. A full report with recommendations to the ALA Executive Board will be filed by the end of June.

## Connecting to RILA-L

RILA-L, is an e-mail discussion forum through which RILA members can share ideas, questions, and concerns with other RILA members. New subscribers should follow these revised instructions:

### To subscribe:

Send an e-mail message to [listserv@pete.uri.edu](mailto:listserv@pete.uri.edu), leaving the subject line blank. In the body of the message type: SUBSCRIBE RILA-L yourfirstname yourlastname. Be sure to disable any automatic signature features of your mail program.

### To send a message to the list:

To send a message to all the people currently subscribed to the list, simply send mail to the list address: [rila-l@pete.uri.edu](mailto:rila-l@pete.uri.edu). Note that the list address is different from the LISTSERV address. Be sure to send all commands to [listserv@pete.uri.edu](mailto:listserv@pete.uri.edu), not [rila-l@pete.uri.edu](mailto:rila-l@pete.uri.edu).

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Additional information for subscribers can be found on the RILA Web page located at: <[www.library.uri.edu/RILA/listserv.htm](http://www.library.uri.edu/RILA/listserv.htm)>.

## President's Message

*continued from page 1*

Your new RILA President, Helena Rodrigues, and the new Executive Board will do an outstanding job for you. I wish to thank all the RILA membership, and particularly the Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and committee members. They have done solid work and given generously of their time.

This has been a very positive experience for me, and for that I am extremely grateful. Thanks again!

## LITA Experts Identify ...

*continued from back page*

- The isolated scholar is out there, and she wants your resources! That widespread distribution tool, the Web, is making library resources available to more people than ever before and blurring the lines between audiences. The former online from Two Egg, Fla., might be just as interested in your one-of-a-kind research material as a graduate student is. Who are you going to serve on the worldwide network and how?
- Authentication and rights management: who has the right to use this, but not that, and how much will they be charged? And is that document the real thing? The World Wide Web allows more access by more people to more connected information than ever before in history, but documents and identities are also more malleable than ever before. Libraries are going to have an increasing interest in verifying that you are who you say you are, you do have the right to access this resource, and the resources you are receiving are authentic.
- Don't run aground on submerging technologies! Often just as important to libraries as emerging technologies are submerging technologies. For example, you need to be planning now to migrate away from CD-ROM and toward the Web as a delivery mechanism for index, abstract, and full text databases.



## LITA Experts Identify Top Technology Trends

One of the top trends in technology for libraries is: you don't have to pay attention to all the trends! That's according to 10 experts who are members of the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

The experts agree that librarians have permission to ignore the "trends of the week" breathlessly and regularly announced in computer industry publicity.

LITA assembled the discussion group, which included Karen Coyle, Walt Crawford, Pat Earnest, Elizabeth Lane Lawley, Clifford Lynch, Roy Tennant, Carol Tenopir, Joan Frye Williams, Tom Wilson and Milton Wolf.

They agreed that the following trends are worth keeping an eye on:

- Library users who are Web users – a growing group expect customization, interactivity, and customer support. Approaches that are library-focused instead of user-focused will be increasingly irrelevant. The University of Washington's MyGateway and North Carolina State University's MyLibrary@NCState are examples of customized portals.
- In dealing with electronic information resources, what librarians bring to the table is evaluative guidance. Comprehensive lists and catalogs are not possible any more (if they ever were!), but librarians can help the overloaded information user by selecting, evaluating, and adapting features such as "people who liked this book also liked."
- It's time to put a human face on the virtual library. The crucial factor in the success of the nonvirtual library are the people who work there and serve the user. What do libraries emphasize on their Web sites? Resources, collections, facts with no human guidance or presence. On many library Web sites, the user is hard-pressed to identify the staff, whose names, if they're there, are five levels down. The human factor is still important.
- Why reinvent the wheel? Co-opt existing technologies that haven't been used in libraries, and take advantage of cooperative efforts in information access. Libraries can afford less and less wasteful inefficiency and duplication of effort. You can't catalog the Web yourself; instead, tune in to OCLC's Project CORC or the ISAAC Network. And those folks in the fast food industry with the telephone headphones why aren't we all using those in customer support?

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